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Address to:

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney's Docket No. SONY-T0949

First Named Inventor KATASHI NAGAO

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

SIR:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application entitled:
DOCUMENT PROCESSING APPARATUS HAVING AN AUTHORIZING CAPABILITY FOR DESCRIBING
A DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application and the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date August 9, 2000, in an envelope bearing "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL387335326US addressed to: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Elizabeth Reicker

(Name of person mailing paper)

Elizabeth Reicker
(Signature)

Enclosed are:

1. X Transmittal Form (two copies required)
2. The papers required for filing date under CFR § 1.53(b):
 - i. 140 Pages of specification (including claims and abstract);
 - ii. 45 Sheets of drawings.
 formal X informal
3. Declaration or oath
 - a. X Unsigned

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

4. An assignment of the invention to Sony Corporation is attached (including Form PTO-1595).
 - i. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee)
5. X Power of Attorney (unsigned)
6. An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is enclosed, including a PTO-1449 and copies of references.
7. X Preliminary Amendment.
8. X Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503 -- should be specifically itemized)
9. FOREIGN PRIORITY
 - [X] Priority of application no. P11-227532 filed on August 11, 1999 in Japan is claimed under 35 USC 119.

The certified copy of the priority application:

- X is filed herewith; or
 has been filed in prior application no. filed on , or
 will be provided.

 English Translation Document (if applicable)

10. FEE CALCULATION

- a. ☐ Amendment changing number of claims or deleting multiple dependencies is enclosed.

CLAIMS AS FILED

	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee (\$690)
Total Claims	32 - 20	* 12	x \$18.00	216.00
Independent Claims	4 - 3	* 1	x \$78.00	78.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple dependent claim(s), if any			\$260.00	0

*If less than zero, enter "0".

Filing Fee Calculation \$984.00

50% Filing Fee Reduction (if applicable) \$

11. Small Entity Status

- a. ☐ A small entity statement is enclosed.
b. ☐ A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
c. ☐ is no longer claimed.

12. Other Fees

- ☐ Recording Assignment [\$40.00] \$0
☐ Other fees
Specify _____ \$0

Total Fees Enclosed \$984.00

13. Payment of Fees

- ☒ Check(s) in the amount of \$ 984.00 enclosed.
☐ Charge Account No. 12-1420 in the amount of \$ ____.
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

14. All correspondence regarding this application should be forwarded to the undersigned attorney:


Charles P. Sammut
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Telephone: 415/433-4150
Facsimile: 415/433-8716

15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Account No. 12-1420. A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

August 9, 2000
(Date)

By: 
Charles P. Sammut
Registration No. 28,901
Attorney(s) or Agent(s) for Applicant(s)

Attorney Docket No. SONY-T0949
[S00P0949US00]

PATENT

-1-

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of) Group Art Unit: Unknown
)
KATASHI NAGAO) Examiner: Unknown
)
Application No. Not Assigned) PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
)
Filed: Herewith) 2001 Ferry Bldg.
) San Francisco, CA 94111
For: DOCUMENT PROCESSING) Ph.: 415-433-4150
APPARATUS HAVING AN)
AUTHORING CAPABILITY)
FOR DESCRIBING A)
DOCUMENT STRUCTURE)
)
_____)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Page 11, line 14, please change "Fig. 12 is a table" to
--Figs. 12A and 12B are tables--.
Page 12, line 17, please change "Fig. 22 is a schematic diagram" to
--Figs. 22A and 22B are schematic diagrams--.
Page 12, line 23, please change "Fig. 24 is a schematic diagram" to
--Fig. 24A and 24B are schematic diagrams--.
Page 13, line 11, please change "Fig. 29 is a schematic diagram" to
--Figs. 29A and 29B are schematic diagrams--.

It is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and the Examiner's early examination and consideration are respectfully requested.

By:

Charles P. Sammut
Reg. No. 28,901

August 9, 2000
Our File: SONY-T0949

DOCUMENT PROCESSING APPARATUS HAVING AN AUTHORING CAPABILITY
FOR DESCRIBING A DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

1. Field of the Invention

2. Description of the Related Art

The WWW is a system that allows electronic document to be treated in a new manner, that is, generated, processed, disclosed, and used in common. However, from the point of view of practically using documents, the WWW has a limitation in the capability of processing documents. Thus, there is a need for a higher-level document processing technique such as categorization or summarization of documents. In order to realize such high-level document processing, it is necessary to automatically process the contents of documents.

Firstly, the HTML (Electronic Markup Language) prescribes the manner of representing documents, but does

not prescribe the contents of the documents. Secondly, it is not necessarily easy for users to understand the contents of documents that are linked to one another via a hypertext network. Thirdly, authors usually write documents without bearing in mind the convenience of readers, and no adjustment is made as to the difference in convenience between authors and readers.

Although the WWW is a new electronic documentation system having various advantages, the WWW is not capable of performing high-level document processing which needs additional automatic processing. In other words, in order to realize the high-level document processing, it is required to automatically process documents.

To the above end, systems for assisting in automatically processing a document has been developed on the basis of natural language processing technology. One such method is to automatically process a document according to tags which have been attached, by the author of the document or other person, to the document so as to represent attribute information about the internal structure of the document.

In recent years, computers have become increasingly popular, and many computers are connected to one another via a network. As a result, there occurs a need for a higher-level document processing technique to perform generation of

a text document, labeling, and a modification of a text document, in accordance with an index depending upon the content of a document. More specifically, there is a need for a technique to summarize or categorize a document in response to a request issued by a user.

To the above end, document data or a document file supplied to a user should include information required to process the document data. Thus, there is a need for an authoring technique for generating document data including such information.

The authoring technique should be easily used not only by users having high-level knowledge but also general users who do not have high-level knowledge.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Thus, it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and method for processing a document in a manner that satisfies the above-described requirements. According to an aspect of the present invention, to achieve the above object, there is provided a document processing apparatus comprising: automatic analysis means for automatically analyzing an electronic document and attaching structure information representing a document structure to the electronic document in accordance with the result of the automatic analysis; information presenting means for

In this document processing apparatus according to the present invention, the automatic analysis means preferably comprises morpheme dividing means for dividing the electronic document into morphemes and morphological information attaching means for attaching morphological information to each morpheme.

The candidates of internal information may represent different manners in which the electronic document is divided into morphemes.

The candidates of internal information may represent

The correction means may correct the internal information associated with the electronic document by adding, removing, or modifying internal information.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a document processing method comprising the steps of: attaching structure information representing a document structure to the electronic document by automatically analyzing the electronic document; presenting information about the electronic document including the structure information so that a user may correct internal information associated with the electronic document on the basis of the information displayed on a display; and correcting the internal information associated with the electronic document in response to an operation performed by the user in accordance with the internal information displayed on the display.

If candidates of internal information are attached in the step of attaching structure information, the step of presenting information may present information so as to prompt a user to select one of the internal information.

The candidates of internal information may represent different manners in which the electronic document is divided into morphemes.

The candidates of internal information may represent different document structures.

The candidates of internal information may represent different referential relations between portions of the electronic document.

The correction step may correct the internal information associated with the electronic document by adding, removing, or modifying internal information.

Preferably, the step of attaching structure information automatically analyses the electronic document as to the document structure in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure, and the correction step corrects the internal structure of

According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, the program comprising the steps of: automatically analyzing an electronic document and attaching structure information representing a document structure to the electronic document in accordance with the result of the automatic analysis; presenting information about the electronic document including the structure information so that a user may correct internal information associated with the electronic document on the basis of the information displayed on a display; and correcting the internal information associated with the electronic document in response to an operation performed by the user in accordance with the internal information displayed on the display.

If candidates of internal information are attached in the step of attaching structure information, the step of

The candidates of internal information may represent different manners in which the electronic document is divided into morphemes.

The candidates of internal information may represent different referential relations between portions of the electronic document.

Preferably, the step of attaching structure information automatically analyses the electronic document as to the document structure in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure.

According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a signal carrying a computer-controllable program, the program comprising the steps of: automatically analyzing an electronic document and attaching structure information representing a document structure to the electronic document in accordance with the result of the automatic analysis; presenting information about the

In this signal according to the present invention, the step of attaching structure information preferably includes the steps of dividing the electronic document into morphemes and attaching morphological information to the respective morphemes.

The candidates of internal information may represent different manners in which the electronic document is divided into morphemes.

The candidates of internal information may represent different referential relations between portions of the electronic document.

Preferably, the step of attaching structure information automatically analyses the electronic document as to the document structure in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of a document data providing system according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of a document processing apparatus according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a document structure employed in the embodiment of the invention:

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating a window for displaying a sentence structure according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a manual categorization process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart illustrating an indexing process according to the embodiment of the invention;

values according to the embodiment of the invention:

Fig. 17 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a browser window according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 18 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a browser window in which a summary is displayed, according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 19 is a flow chart illustrating a process of generating a summary according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 20 is a flow chart illustrating a process of reading aloud a document according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 21 is a flow chart illustrating a process of generating a read-out file according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 22 is a schematic diagram illustrating another example of a tag file according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 23 is a schematic diagram illustrating another example of a tag file according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 24 is a schematic diagram illustrating another example of a read-out file according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 32 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a text displayed on the display after being determined in terms of morphological elements during the authoring process

Fig. 33 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of displaying an undefined word during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 34 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of presenting a subwindow for processing an undefined word during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 35 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of processing an undefined word in the subwindow during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 36 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a text displayed after defining an undefined word during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 37 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a text displayed after completion of morphological analysis during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 38 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a text including tags representing document structures added during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 39 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of displaying candidates for words modified by a modifier, during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 40 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of adding a tag using a subwindow during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 41 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of displaying a heading and tags associated with sentences during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 42 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of displaying a text after being tagged during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 43 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example of a manner of displaying words cataphorically referred to by another word, during the authoring process according to the embodiment of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is described in further detail below with reference to preferred embodiments, as to the following items.

First, the configuration of a document data providing system is described. After that, a document processing apparatus, that is included in the document data providing system and that receives document data, is described. The data structure of document data is then described. Thereafter, described is an embodiment of an authoring apparatus for generating document data to be supplied to the document processing apparatus according to the present invention. More specifically, the following items will be described:

1. Configuration of Document Data Providing System
2. Configuration of Document Processing Apparatus
3. Document Data Structure
4. Manual Categorization of Document Data

- 4.1 Procedure

- 4.2 Indexing

- 4.3 Browsing, Generation of Categories, and

Categorization

- 4.4 Creation/Registration of the Categorization

Model

5. Automatic Categorization of Document Data
 - 5.1 Procedure
 - 5.2 Automatic Categorization
6. Summarization
7. Reading Aloud Document

8. Configuration of Authoring Apparatus

9. Authoring Process

1. Configuration of Document Data Providing System

Fig. 1 illustrates an example of the configuration of a document data providing system.

In the present embodiment, the document data providing system includes mainly a document processing apparatus 1, a server 3, an authoring apparatus 2, and a document provider 4.

The document provider 4 provides original text data (original document) including no tags that will be described later (hereinafter, such a text including no tags will be referred to as a plain text).

In the present embodiment, the document provider 4 has a document generator 4a for generating a plain text.

Note that the document provider 4 is not necessarily required to have the document generator 4a, and what is essential to the document provider 4 is to provide a plain text. Instead of generating a document, the document provider 4 may provide a plain text received from an external document producer.

The document provider 4 may store a plain text, to be provided, on a storage medium 81 such as a floppy disk or an optical disk whereby the plain text may be provided to the

authoring apparatus 2 or other apparatus.

Alternatively, the document provider 4 may transmit a plain text to the authoring apparatus 2 via a cable communication medium (such as a public telephone line, a private communication line, or the Internet) or a wireless communication medium (such as a satellite communication line or a wireless telephone line).

The authoring apparatus 2 includes an authoring processor 2a, a document generator 2b, and an authoring program 2c. The hardware configuration of the authoring apparatus 2 and the operation thereof will be described later.

When the authoring apparatus 2 receives a plain text via the storage medium 81 or the communication line 6, the authoring apparatus 2 may perform an authoring process upon the received plain text thereby generating document data to be supplied to the document processing apparatus 1 serving as a user terminal that will be described later. Herein, the "document data" is generated by adding various tags as will be described later. Thus, such document data will also be referred to as a tag file.

The authoring processor 2a performs the authoring process in accordance with the authoring program 2c.

When the authoring apparatus 2 has the document generator 2b, the authoring apparatus 2 is capable of

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The authoring program 2c may be stored in advance in an internal storage device (RAM, ROM, hard disk) in the authoring apparatus 2. Alternatively, an external authoring program 5 may be downloaded into the authoring apparatus 2 via the storage medium 81 or the communication line 6 so that the authoring processor 2a may operate in accordance with the downloaded authoring program 5.

The server 3 supplies document data stored in the database 3a to an end user's apparatus such as the document processing apparatus 1 via a storage medium 32 such as a floppy disk or an optical disk or a communication line 6.

An end user may perform various processes upon received document data using the document processing apparatus 1 as will be described later thereby obtaining various high-level documents.

For example, the system may include a large number of document providers 4, authoring apparatus 2, and servers 3. An authoring apparatus 2 may be disposed on the side of a document provider 4. Furthermore, a document provider 4, an authoring apparatus 2, and a server 3 may be combined into a single apparatus.

The document processing apparatus 1, that is included in the document data providing system and that processes received document data, is described in further detail below.

The main unit 10 including the controller 11 and the interface 12 serves as the core of the document processing

apparatus 1.

The controller 11 includes a CPU 13 for processing a document, a RAM 14 serving as a volatile memory, and a ROM 15 serving as a nonvolatile memory.

The CPU 13 executes a program in accordance with a procedure stored in the ROM 15, wherein the CPU 13 temporarily stores data in the RAM 14 if necessary.

Operations performed by the controller 11 include, as will be described in detail later, categorization of given document data, summarization, generation of a file used to output data by voice, and document analysis required in the above operations. Programs and application software required for the above operations are stored in the ROM 15, the HDD 34, or the storage medium 32.

As described above, the document processing program used by the controller 11 may be stored in advance in the ROM 15 or may be loaded from the storage medium 32 or the HDD 34. Alternatively, the document processing program may be downloaded from an external server via the communication device 21 (communication line 6) and a network such as the Internet.

The interface 12 is connected to the controller 11, the input unit 20, the communication device 21, the display 30, the write/read unit 31, the audio output unit 33, and the HDD 34.

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The display 30 serves as an output device of the document processing apparatus 1, for displaying characters and/or image information. The display 30 may include a cathode ray tube (CRT) or a liquid crystal display (LCD). The display 30 may display one or more windows in which characters and/or graphic images are displayed.

Although in the present embodiment, a floppy disk (magnetic disk) or an optical disk is employed as the storage medium 32, other types of removable storage media such as a magneto-optical disk, a memory card, and a magnetic tape may also be employed. As for the write/read unit 31, a device (such as a disk drive or a card drive) adapted to writing/reading data to and from an employed medium may be used.

In the case where a document processing program to be used to process a document is stored on the storage medium

32, the write/read unit 31 may read the document processing program from the storage medium 32 and transfer it to the controller 11.

When document data is stored on the storage medium 32, the write/read unit 31 may read such a data from the storage medium 32 and transfer it to the controller 11. This provides another way for the document processing apparatus 1 to acquire document data.

Furthermore, after processing document data by the document processing apparatus 1, the controller 11 may store the resultant document data on the storage medium 32 using the write/read unit 31.

The audio output unit 33 serves as an output device of the document processing apparatus 1, for providing a voice output corresponding to a document.

More specifically, the audio output unit 33 outputs a voice signal synthesized by the controller in accordance with document information (read-out file) that will be described later.

The HDD 34 serves as a mass storage device used by the document processing apparatus 1 to store a large amount of data. The HDD 34 writes and reads information under the control of the controller 11.

The HDD 34 is used to store various application programs such as a voice synthesis program executed by the

controller 11. The HDD 34 may also be used to store document data input to the document processing apparatus 1.

3. Document Data Structure

The data structure of document data is described below. In the present embodiment, a document is processed in accordance with attribute information described by a tag attached to a document. Tags used in the present embodiment include a syntactic tag and a semantic/pragmatic tag wherein the syntactic tag indicates the structure of a document and the semantic/pragmatic tag makes it possible for a machine to understand the contents of documents written in various languages.

A syntactic tag may be used to described the internal structure of a document.

The internal structure, to be represented by tags, includes elements such as a document, sentences, and words which are linked to one another by normal links or reference links, as shown in Fig. 3.

In Fig. 3, open circles represent elements. Open circles at the bottom represent elements in the lowest level in a document. Solid lines represent normal links indicating direct connections between elements such as sentences or words. Broken lines represent reference links indicating dependence between elements.

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[illegible][illegible]

"arrow0">arrow</noun></noun phrase></adverb phrase></verb phrase>.</sentence>

In the above example, <sentence>, <noun>, <noun phrase>, <verb>, <verb phrase>, <adverb>, and <adverb phrase> are used to indicate a sentence, a noun, a noun phrase, a verb, a verb phrase, an adjective/adverb (including preposition and postposition phrases), and an adjective/adverb phrase, respectively. That is, the syntactic structure of the sentence is described by those tags.

A start tag is placed immediately before an element and a corresponding end tag is placed immediately after that element. Herein, end tags placed immediately after the respective elements include a symbol "/" to indicate that the tags are end tags. The term "element" is used herein to describe a syntactic element such as a phrase, a paragraph, or a sentence.

The expression, word sense = "time0", indicates that word "time" is used herein to describe the 0th sense of a plurality of senses of word "time". More specifically, although "time" has senses as a noun, an adjective, and a verb, "time" is used herein as a noun (first sense). Similarly, word "orange" has three senses, namely, the name of a plant, one of colors, and one of fruits, which can be distinguished from each other by specifying a word sense.

In the present embodiment, the syntactic structure of

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In this specific example in Fig. 3, a part of a sentence "A氏のB会が終わったC市で、一部の大衆紙と一般紙がその写真報道を自主規制する方針を紙面で明らかにした。" (Convention B was held in C City under the leadership of Mr. A. Some of newspaper companies, including usual and popular newspaper companies, have announced, on their papers that they will restrict themselves in terms of insertion of photographs of Mr. A.) is shown in the window 101. This document may be tagged, for example, as follows.

```
<document><sentence><|adverb phrase: relation =
"place"><noun phrase><adverb phrase: place = "C市
"><document><sentence><adverb phrase: relation =
"place"><noun phrase><adverb phrase: place = "C市"><adverb
phrase: relation = "subject"> <noun phrase: identifier ="B
会"><adverb phrase: relation = "position"><person name:
identifier = "A氏">A氏</ person name></adverb
phrase><organization name: identifier ="B会">B会
</organization name></noun phrase>が</adverb phrase>終わった
</adverb phrase><place name: identifier = "C市">C市</place
name></noun phrase>で、 </adverb phrase><adverb phrase:
```


In the above sentence, `syntax = "parallel"` indicates that "一部の大衆紙" and "一般紙" are parallel in relation. Herein, "parallel" elements are such elements having the

A relational attribute describes a relation between elements in terms of syntax, meaning, and rhetoric. More specifically, a relation attribute describes a grammatical function such as a subject, an object, and an indirect object, a theme/role such as an acting person, a person receiving an action, and a beneficiary, and a rhetorical relation such as a reason and a result. In the present example, relatively simple syntactic functions such as a subject, object, and indirect object are described by relational attributes.

Furthermore, in the present example, the attributes of proper nouns such as "A氏", "B会", and "C市" ("Mr. A", "Convention B", "City C") are described by tags <place name>, <person name>, and <organization name>. By attaching a tag <place name>, <person name>, or <organization name>, it is possible to indicate that a tagged word is a proper noun.

4. Manual Categorization of Document Data

4.1 Procedure

In the document processing apparatus 1 of the present

In general, categorization is performed either in a manual fashion by a user in accordance with the content of given document data or in an automatic fashion by the document processing apparatus 1.

First, the manual categorization process to be performed initially is described. That is, when the document processing apparatus in the initial state receives

First, the manual categorization process to be performed initially is described. That is, when the document processing apparatus in the initial state receives

The outline of the manual categorization process is first described with reference to Fig. 5, and then each step of the process is described in further detail.

In step F12, the controller 11 of the document processing apparatus 1 extracts words characterizing the plurality of documents received via the receiver 21 and generates an index for each document. The controller 11 stores the generated index 11 in the RAM 14 or the HDD 34.

In step F13, a user reads a document as required. In this step, the document processing apparatus 1 performs an

The document data input to the document processing apparatus 1 is displayed on the screen of the display 30 in response to a command issued by the user so that the user can read it.

In step F14, the controller 11 generates and displays categories in accordance with an operation performed by the user. The user then specifies a category for each document data. In response, the controller 11 categorizes and displays document data.

The categorization model includes data that represents correspondence between categories and elements of indexes

(generated in step F12) of respective documents. That is, the categorization model represents how documents are categorized.

In step F16, the resultant categorization model is registered. The registration is performed by the controller 11 by storing the categorization model in the RAM 14.

By performing the process shown in Fig. 5 in the above-described manner, one or more document data input to the document processing apparatus 1 in the initial state are manually categorized, and a categorization model is generated.

The respective steps in the process shown in Fig. 5 are described in further detail below.

4.2 Indexing

In step F14, the controller 11 generates an index for each document data input.

A specific example of an index generated for certain document data is shown below.

<index: date = "AAAA/BB/CC"; time = "DD:EE:FF";
document address = "1234">

<user's operation history: maximum summary size =
"100">

<selection: number of elements = "10">PictureTel</選択

```
</user's operation history>
<summary>Primary Minister X did not tell a specific
amount of tax reduction, in a press conference.</summary>
<word: word sense = "0003"; central activation value =
"140.6">not tell</word>
<word: word sense = "0105"; identifier "X"; central
activation value = "67.2">Prime Minister</word>
<person name: identifier "X"; word: word sense =
"6103"; central activation value = "150.2">Prime Minister
X</word></word /person name>
<word: word sense = "5301"; central activation value =
"120.6">ask</word>
<word: word sense = "2350"; identifier "X"; central
activation value = "31.4">Prime Minister</word>
<word: word sense = "9582"; central activation value =
"182.3">emphasize</word>
<word: word sense = "2595"; central activation value =
"93.6">tell</word>
<word: word sense = "9472"; central activation value =
"12.0">noticed</word>
<word: word sense = "4934"; central activation value =
"46.7">did not tell</word>
<word: word sense = "0178"; central activation value =
"175.7">excuse</word>
```

<word: word sense = "7248"; identifier = "X"; central
activation value = "130.6">I</word>
<word: word sense = "3684"; identifier = "X"; central
activation value = "121.9">Prime Minister</word>
<word: word sense = "1824"; central activation value =
"144.4">appeal</word>
<word: word sense = "7289"; central activation value =
"176.8">show</word>
</index>

In the above example, <index> and </index> indicate the
start and end positions, respectively, of the index. <date>
and <time> indicate the date and the time, respectively, at
which the index was generated. <summary> and </summary>
indicate the start and the end, respectively, of the summary.

<word> and </word> indicate the start and end of a word.

word sense = "0003" indicates the third word sense of a
word. The other tags are used in a similar manner. As
described earlier, in order to distinguish a plurality of
word senses of a word, numbers are assigned in advance to
the respective word senses, and a particular word sense is
specified by the number assigned to that word sense.

<user's operation history> and </user's operation
history> indicate the start and end of a user's operation
history. <selection> and </selection> indicate the start and
end of a selected element. maximum summary size = "100"

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As can be seen from the above example, the index of a document includes one or more proper nouns and/or word senses that characterize the document.

Fig. 8 illustrates the details of step F31 shown in Fig. 6, and the details of step F43 are shown in Fig. 9.

In the indexing process shown in Fig. 5, spreading of activation values is first performed in step F31 in Fig. 6.

The spreading of activation values is a process in which the central activation values associated with elements in document data are spread depending on the internal structure of a document such that high central activation values are given to elements having significant relations with elements having high central activation values.

More specifically, initial central activation values are first given to the respective elements of a document, and the central activation values are then spread depending

The central activation values are determined depending upon the internal structure represented by tags, and they can be used to extract distinctive words characterizing the document.

The spreading of activation values in step F31 is described in further detail below with reference to Figs. 7 to 9.

Note that Fig. 7 does not illustrate all elements of a document and the entire link structure associated therewith but illustrates a part of the link structure in the vicinity of elements E1 and E2. Of elements E1-E8 shown in Fig. 7, E1 and E2 are taken as examples in the following description.

These two elements E1 and E2 are connected to each other by a link L12 (normal link or reference link).

The element E1 is also connected with elements E3, E4, and E5, via links L13, L14, and L15, respectively. The links L13, L14, and L15 have end points T13, T14, and T15, respectively, connected with the element E1.

Similarly, the element E2 is also connected with elements E6, E7, and E8, via links L26, L27, and L28, respectively. The links L26, L27, and L28 have end points T26, T27, and T28, respectively, connected with the element E2.

The spreading of activation values over such a link structure is described below with reference to Figs. 8 and 9.

In step F41 in Fig. 8, before starting the spreading of activation values associated with the document data, an index of which is to be produced, initial central activation values are defined for all elements included in the document.

The initial central activation values are determined such that, for example, a proper noun and other elements selected by a user have high values.

The controller 11 sets to zero the end-point activation values of end points T(xx) of reference links and those of normal links via which elements are connected to one another. The controller 11 stores the resultant initial end-point

activation values in the RAM 14.

In step F42, the controller 11 initializes a counter for counting the number of elements E_i of the document. More specifically, the controller 11 sets the counter value i of the element counter to 1. When $i = 1$, the counter points to a first element (for example, element E_1 in Fig. 8).

In step F43, the controller 11 recalculates the central activation value for an element pointed to by the counter.

By way of example, the recalculation of the central activation value for the element E1 is described in detail with reference to Fig. 9.

In the recalculation of the central activation value, end-point activation values of the element are first recalculated, and a new central activation value is determined using the current central activation value and the recalculated end-point activation values.

In step F51 in Fig. 9, the controller 11 initializes the counter for counting the number of links connected at one end thereof with an element E_i (E₁ in this specific example) of a document. More specifically, the controller 11 sets the counter value j of the link counter to 1. When j = 1, the link counter points to a first link L(yy) connected with an element E_i. In the specific example shown in Fig. 7, a link L12 is pointed to as a first link

associated with the element E1.

In step F52, the controller 11 determines, by referring to a relational attribute tag, whether or not the link pointed to by the link counter, that is, the link L12 between elements E1 and E2, is a normal link. If the link L12 is a normal link, the controller 11 advances the process to step F53. However, the controller 11 advances the process to step F54 if the link L12 is a reference link.

In the case where the link L12 is a normal link and thus the process goes to step F53, the controller 11 calculates a new end-point activation value for the end point T12 at which the element E1 is connected to the normal link L12.

The end-point activation value t12 of the end point T12 is obtained by adding the central activation value e2 of the element E2 and the end-point activation values (t26, t27, t28) of all end points (T26, T27, T28) of the element E2 linked to the element E1 except for the end point connected to the link L12 and then dividing the resultant sum by the total number of elements included in the document.

The controller 11 determines the new end-point activation value of the end point connected the normal link by performing the above-described calculation using end-point activation values and the central activation value read from the RAM 14. The determined end-point activation

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On the other hand, in the case where it is determined in step F52 that the link L12 is a reference link and thus the process goes to step F54, the controller 11 calculates a new end-point activation value of the end point T12 at which the element E1 is connected to the link L12. In this case, the calculation is performed as follows.

The end-point activation value t_{12} of the end point T_{12} is obtained by adding the central activation value e_2 of the element E_2 and the end-point activation values (t_{26} , t_{27} , t_{28}) of all end points (T_{26} , T_{27} , T_{28}) of the element E_2 linked to the element E_1 except for the end point connected to the link L_{12} . (In this case, unlike the calculation for normal links, the resultant sum is not divided.)

The controller 11 determines the new end-point activation value of the end point connected the reference link by performing the above-described calculation using end-point activation values and the central activation value read from the RAM 14. The determined end-point activation value is stored in the RAM 14. Thus, the end-point activation value t12 for the end point T12 is updated.

After performing step F53 or F54, the controller 11 determines, in step F55, whether to go to step F57. That is, the process goes to step F57 if it is determined in step F55

Thus, the counter value becomes $j = 2$, and the counter points to the second link (for example, L13) connected to the element E1. The end-point activation value t13 of the end point T13 at which the element E1 is connected to the link L13 is calculated, in a similar manner as described above, by performing step F52 and the following steps.

In step F55, the controller 11 determines whether the new end-point activation value has been calculated for all links connected to an element E_i (E_1 in this specific example) pointed to by the current counter value i , and the controller 11 performs the calculation until the new end-point activation value has been determined for all end points of the current element E_i .

That is, the above-process is performed repeatedly while incrementing the counter value j in step F57 thereby determining new end-point activation values t12, t13, t14, and t15 of end points T12, T13, T14, and T15 of the element E1. When all end-point activation values have been determined, the process goes from step F55 to F56.

In step F56, the new central activation value e_i for the element E_i is determined using the new end-point activation values determined in the above process.

The new central activation value e_i is determined by adding the sum of new end-point activation values of the element E_i to the current central activation value e_i of the element E_i . For example, in the case of the element E_1 shown in Fig. 7, the new central activation value $e_1(\text{new})$ is given by

$$e_1(\text{new}) = e_1 + t_{12} + t_{13} + t_{14} + t_{15}$$

After determining the central activation value e_i of the element E_i pointed to by the current counter value i , the controller 11 stores the resultant central activation value e_i in the RAM 14. Thus, the central activation value e_i of the element E_i is updated. (The old central activation value is further held for use in step F45 that will be described later.)

After updating the central activation values in step F43 shown in Fig. 8 in the manner described above with reference to Fig. 9, the controller 11 advances the process to step F44 shown in Fig. 8. In step F44, the controller 11 determines whether the central activation values have been updated for all elements of the document. More specifically, the controller 11 determines whether the counter value i has become equal to the total number of elements included in the document.

If the updating of the central activation value is not completed for all elements, the controller 11 advances the process to step F47. In step F47, the controller 11 increments the counter value i and returns the process to step F43.

For example, at the time when the process for the element E1 is completed, the counter value i is incremented to $i = 2$ so as to point to the element E2.

Thus, step F43 (that is, the process shown in Fig. 9) is repeated to calculate the central activation value for the element E2.

Although a further detailed description is not given herein because step F43 is performed in a similar manner, the end-point activation values t_{21} , t_{26} , t_{27} , and t_{28} of the end points T21, T26, T27, and T28 of the element E2 are updated, and then the new central activation value $e2(\text{new})$ is determined in accordance with the following equation:

$$e2(\text{new}) = e2 + t_{21} + t_{26} + t_{27} + t_{28}$$

In the process shown in Fig. 8, step F43 is performed repeatedly to calculate the central activation value while incrementing the counter value i in step F47 so as to change the element pointed to by the counter value, until the central activation value has been updated for all elements

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When the updating of the central activation value is completed for all elements included in the document, the process goes from step F44 to F45.

More specifically, the controller 11 reads from the RAM 14 the old central activation values and the updated new central activation values for all elements. The controller 11 then calculates the differences between the new and old central activation values and divides the sum of differences by the total number of elements thereby determining the mean value of variations in central activation values of all elements.

In the following step F46, the controller 11 determines whether the mean value calculated in step F45 is less than a predetermined threshold value.

If the mean value is less than the threshold value, the controller 11 terminates the process of spreading activation

values. However, when the mean value is not less than the threshold value, the process returns to step F42 to repeat the above-described process.

As a result of spreading activation values, the central activation values of elements related to elements having high central activation values become high.

However, if the spreading of activation values is performed only once, there is a possibility that the central activation value of an element, which should be increased to achieve the purpose of the indexing process, is not increased to a sufficiently high level. More specifically, although the central activation values of elements directly linked to an element having a high initial central activation value are increased to sufficiently high levels by one execution of the activation spreading process, the central activation values of elements that are not directly linked to an element having a high initial value are not increased to sufficiently high levels even when those elements are important to create the index.

To avoid the above problem, the spreading of activation values is performed as many times as required to satisfy the condition in step F46. That is, the spreading of activation values is performed repeatedly until the central activation values for all elements have substantially converged, thereby ensuring that the central activation values of all

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important elements are increased.

The central activation values of all elements can converge via the iterations of spreading activation values, because the central activation values of the respective elements are updated using central activation values calculated in the previous iteration. However, if the number of iterations is too great, the calculations are continued uselessly after the central activation values for all elements have converged.

To avoid the above problem, the mean value of variations in the central activation values between two successive iterations is calculated in step F45, and it is determined in step F46 whether the mean value have fallen within a predetermined small range. Thus, the calculation is terminated when the central activation values have substantially converged.

After completion of the spreading of activation values in Figs. 8 and 9 (step F31 in Fig. 6), the controller 11 advances the process to step F32 shown in Fig. 6.

In step F32, the controller 11 evaluates the central activation values determined in step F31 for the respective elements and extracts elements having central activation values greater than a predetermined threshold value. The controller 11 stores the extracted elements in the RAM 14.

In the next step F33, the controller 11 reads the

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extracted elements from the RAM 14. The controller 11 then extracts all proper nouns included in the extracted elements and adds the extracted proper nouns to the index. Proper nouns have no word sense and they are not described in a dictionary. Thus, proper nouns are handled separately from the other words. Herein, as described earlier, a "word sense" refers to a particular meaning of a word having a plurality of meanings.

It is possible to determine whether each element is a proper noun, by checking an associated tag described in a document. For example, in the internal structure represented by tags as shown in Fig. 3, relational attributes represented by tags indicate that "A氏", "B会", and "C市" ("Mr. A", "Convention B", "City C") are "person name", "organization name", and "place name", respectively, and thus they are proper nouns. The controller 11 adds the extracted proper nouns to the index and stores the result in RAM 14.

In the next step F34, the controller 11 extracts, from the elements extracted in step F32, word senses other than the proper nouns and adds the extracted word senses to the index. The result is stored in the RAM 14.

By performing the above process, an index such as that described above with reference to the specific example is obtained. That is, words characterizing a document

including tags are detected, and an index is generated by listing the detected words. The significance of words included in a document is evaluated on the basis of the central activation values determined by means of spreading activation values depending upon the internal structure of the document.

Because indexes generated in the above-described manner include word senses and proper nouns that characterize documents, indexes can be used to retrieve a desired document.

In addition to the word senses and the proper nouns that characterize the document, the index also includes the document address representing the storage location of the RAM 14 (or the HDD 34) where the document is stored.

4.3 Browsing, Generation of Categories, and Categorization

The process of generating the index described above with reference to Figs. 6 to 9 is performed in step F12 shown in Fig. 5. When the manual categorization process shown in Fig. 5 is performed, after the completion of generating the index, a user reads a document and manually categorizing the document, in steps F13 and F14.

In step F13 in Fig. 5, as described earlier, the user can read a document displayed on the display 30.

In step F14, the user generates categories and

The operations in steps F13 and F14 and other related operations performed by the controller 11 are described below with reference to specific examples.

Fig. 10 shows a document categorization window 201 used to categorize documents in accordance with a categorization model that will be described in detail later. In this specific example, the document categorization window 201 serves as a graphic user interface (GUI) for categorization of documents.

The document categorization window 201 includes subwindows serving as document category displaying areas 203, 204, 205, etc., corresponding to categories based on the categorization model.

The document category displaying area 203 is used to display miscellaneous topics. That is, documents that have not been categorized yet are indicated in the document category displaying area 203. For example, documents that

are received in step F11 in Fig. 5 (and that are to be categorized) are indicated in the document category displaying area 203 entitled "miscellaneous topics".

On the other hand, the document category displaying area 204 is used to indicate documents categorized in, for example, "business news".

The document category displaying area 205 is used to indicate documents categorized in, for example, "political news".

The other document category displaying areas having no reference numerals in Fig. 10 may also be used to indicate documents categorized in particular categories.

When documents are categorized in particular categories, document icons and document titles of documents are displayed in corresponding document category displaying areas 203, 204, etc. When a document has no title, a sentence representing the summary of the document is displayed.

The size of each document category displaying area 203, 204, etc., is not fixed. That is, the size of each document category display area can be changed to a desired size by moving the subwindow frames 211, 212, 213, etc., by means of dragging or the like. The number of document category displaying areas can be changed by a user to an arbitrary value.

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The title (such as "Political News") of each document category displaying area 203, 204, etc., may be arbitrarily set and changed by a user.

The number of document category displaying areas and the titles thereof correspond to the number of categories and categories, respectively, defined in the categorization model that will be described later. That is, the number of categories and the titles of the categories of the categorization model are set when a user sets the document category displaying areas or the title thereof in the categorization window 201 by using the mouse or the keyboard of the input unit 20.

Fig. 11 illustrates an example of a browser window 301 used by a user to browse documents.

For example, if a user clicks the browser button 202b in the categorization window 201 after selecting a document by clicking the corresponding icon or the like in the categorization window 201 shown in Fig. 10, then the controller 11 opens the browser window 301 as shown in Fig. 11 and displays the selected document therein.

The browser window 301 includes a file name displaying area 302 for displaying the file name of a selected document data file, a document displaying area 303 for displaying document data corresponding to the file name displayed in the file name displaying area 302, a summary displaying area

In the browser window 301, a user can read a document displayed in the document displaying area 303. When the entire document is not displayed at a time in the document displaying area 303, a part of the document is displayed. In this case, the use can read the entire document by scrolling the document.

The operation performed by the controller 11 to generate a summary text will be described later.

The process of reading-aloud a document will be described later.

The categorization window 201 and the browser window 301 are displayed on the display 30 not only during the manual categorization process shown in Fig. 5 but also during other processes in response to a request issued by the user. For example, in the manual categorization process shown in Fig. 5, information about the types and the contents of received documents are displayed in the categorization window 201 or the browser window 301, and thus the user can acquire such information via the categorization window 201 or the browser window 301.

More specifically, if one or more documents are received in step F11 shown in Fig. 5, an index is generated in step F12 for the received documents. After that, the titles of the received documents are displayed in the document category displaying area 203 entitled "Miscellaneous Topics" in the categorization window 201 shown in Fig. 10.

Using the categorization window 201, the user manually categorizes the documents displayed in the document category displaying area 203. If the user cannot guess the content of a document from the title thereof, the user may display the document in the browser window 301 shown in Fig. 11 and read the content thereof. That is, in step F13 shown in Fig. 5, the user reads a document if reading is required for the above purpose.

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After being dragged, the icons and the titles of the respective documents are displayed in document category displaying areas into which the documents have been dragged.

In step F15 shown in Fig. 5, after completion of the manual categorization, the controller 11 creates a categorization model including a plurality of categories on the basis of the categorization that has been manually performed by the user. More specifically, the controller 11 creates a categorization model by gathering indexes of a plurality of documents categorized into categories. After that, the controller 11 categorizes the plurality of documents into corresponding categories defined in the categorization model.

As described above, an index is generated for each document in step F12. The categorization model has a data structure in which the indexes of the respective documents are related to the corresponding categories in which the documents are categorized. An example of such a

categorization model is shown in Fig. 12A.

In the example shown in Fig. 12A, the categorization model includes categories "sport", "company", "computer", etc., which have been created by the user using the categorization window 201. Note that the categorization model may include a category that is not given by a user but that has been predefined. A document category displaying area corresponding to such a predefined category may also be displayed in the categorization window.

In the categorization model, correspondence between each category and indexes IDX1, IDX2,... is described. That is, the indexes of the respective documents are related to the corresponding categories in which the documents are categorized.

The indexes related to the respective categories are the same as those of documents displayed in the document category displaying areas corresponding to the respective categories in the categorization window 201.

For example, index IDX1 is related to category "sport" because a user has created a document category displaying area entitled "sport" in the categorization window 201 and dragged the icons of a document having index IDX1 into the document category displaying area entitled "sport".

As described earlier, each index includes one or more proper nouns and word senses other than the proper nouns,

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and also includes a document address.

As shown in Fig. 12A, one or more indexes are related to each category. Because each index includes one or more proper nouns and word senses other than the proper nouns and also includes a document address, the categorization model may also be represented as shown in Fig. 12B.

In the example shown in Fig. 12B, the categorization model has index fields for describing proper nouns, word senses other than proper nouns, and document addresses.

In this categorization model, proper nouns "Mr. A", etc., are related to category "sport". Similarly, proper noun "Mr. B", etc., are related to "company", "C Company", "G Company", etc., to "computer", "D species", etc., to "plant", "Mr. E", etc., to "art", and "Mr. F", etc., to "event".

Similarly, word senses such as "base ball (4546)", "grand (2343)", "labor (3112)", "employment (9821)", "mobile (2102)", "cherry-1 (11111)", "orange -1 (9911)", "cherry-2 (11112)", "orange-2 (9912)", and "cherry-3 (11113)" are related to the corresponding categories.

Furthermore, document addresses such as "SP1", "SP2", "SP3", ..., "S01", "S02", "S03", ..., "C01", "C02", "C03", ..., "PL1", "PL2", "PL3", ..., "AR1", "AR2", "AR3", ..., and "EV1", "EV2", "EV3", ... are also related to the corresponding categories.

Herein, "cherry-1", "cherry-2", and "cherry-3"

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time of update is written in the categorization model. In the example shown in Fig. 12, the date and time of update is written as "1998:12:10:19:56:10".

5. Automatic Categorization of Document Data

5.1 Procedure

In the document processing apparatus 1 according to the present embodiment, once a categorization model is generated, it becomes possible to perform an automatic categorization process to automatically categorize document data input from the outside via the communication device 21 or the like.

That is, when the document processing apparatus 1 receives document data from the outside, the automatic categorization process is performed to categorize the received document data, as is described in detail below.

In the following description, it is assumed that the automatic categorization process is performed each time one document is received. However, the automatic categorization process may be performed each time a predetermined number of documents have been received. Alternatively, the automatic categorization process may be performed when the window shown in Fig. 9 is opened. In this case, the automatic categorization process may be performed for all documents that have been received at that time.

The outline of the automatic categorization process is

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shown in Fig. 13.

In step F21 in Fig. 13, the receiver 21 of the document processing apparatus 1 receives a document. In this step F21, the receiver 21 receives one or more documents via, for example, a communication line. The received one or more documents are transferred to the main unit 10 of the document processing apparatus 1. The controller 11 stores the one or more documents into RAM 14 or the HDD 34.

In the next step F22, the controller 11 generates an index for each document data received in step F21.

In step F23, the controller 11 automatically categorizes each document with an index into one of categories of the categorization model. The controller 11 stores the categorization result in the RAM 14. Each step in the automatic categorization process will be described in further detail later.

In step F24, the controller 11 updates the categorization model on the basis of the result of automatic categorization performed upon the new document in step F23.

In step F25, the controller 11 registers the resultant categorization model updated in step F24, by storing it in the RAM 14.

Thus, by performing the process shown in Fig. 13 in the above-described manner, the document data input to the document processing apparatus 1 is automatically categorized

That is, in the automatic categorization process, an index is first generated for a received document, and then the document is automatically categorized. Furthermore, proper nouns, word senses, and the document address described in the index are related to a category on the categorization model as shown in Fig. 12 (thereby updating the categorization model).

In step F24, the categorization model is updated on the basis of the result of the automatic categorization performed in step F23.

5.2 Automatic Categorization

In step F61 in Fig. 14, the controller 11 determines the number P(Ci) of proper nouns that are included in both

In step F62, the controller 11 determines the word sense relevance values between all word senses included in the index of the document and all word senses included in each category C_i by referring to a word sense relevance table in Fig. 16 that will be described later. The controller 11 then calculates the sum $R(C_i)$ of the word sense relevance values.

That is, the controller calculates the sum $R(C_i)$ of word sense relevance values for words on the categorization model other than proper nouns. The controller 11 stores the calculated sum of word sense relevance values into the RAM 14.

The word sense relevance value is described below.

The word sense relevance value is calculated in advance for each word sense contained in an electronic dictionary provided in the document processing apparatus 1, and the calculated word sense relevance values are stored as shown in Fig. 16. That is, if the controller 11 performs the process shown in Fig. 15 once, the obtained relevance values can be used in the automatic categorization process shown in

More specifically, the process shown in Fig. 15 is performed by the controller 11 as described below.

First, in step F71, the controller 11 generates a word sense network in accordance with explanations of word senses described in the electronic dictionary.

More specifically, the word sense network is generated in accordance with the explanations of the respective word senses described in the dictionary and the referential relations of word senses appearing in the explanations.

The internal structure of the network is described by tags such as those described above. The controller 11 of the document processing apparatus 1 sequentially reads word senses and explanations thereof described in the electronic dictionary stored in the RAM 14 and generates a network.

The controller 14 stores the generated word sense network in the RAM 14.

Instead of generating a network by the controller 11 of the document processing apparatus 1 using the dictionary, a network may also be obtained by receiving from the outside via the receiver 21 or by installing from the storage medium 32 via the write/read unit 31.

Similarly, the electronic dictionary may also be obtained by receiving from the outside via the receiver 21 or by installing from the storage medium 32 via the

write/read unit 31.

In step F72, spreading of central activation values of elements of the respective word senses is performed over the word sense network generated in step F71. In this activation spreading process, the central activation values associated with the respective word senses are given in accordance with the internal structure described by tags using the dictionary. The process of spreading activation values is performed in the manner described above with reference to Fig. 8.

In step F73, one word sense S_i is selected from elements constituting the word sense network generated in step F71. In the next step F74, the initial central activation value e_i of the element E_i corresponding to the word sense S_i is changed, and the change Δe_i in the central activation value from the initial value is calculated.

In the next step F75, the change Δe_j in the central activation value e_j of an element E_j corresponding to another word sense S_j in response to the change Δe_i in the central activation value of the element E_i is determined.

In step F76, the difference Δe_j obtained in step F75 is divided by Δe_i obtained in step F74. The resultant ratio $\Delta e_j / \Delta e_i$ is employed as the word sense relevance value of the word sense S_i with respect to the word sense S_j .

In step F77, it is determined whether the word sense

If word sense relevance values have not been calculated for all possible combinations, the process returns to step F73 to calculate the word sense relevance value for a remaining combination.

In the loop from step F73 to F77, the controller 11 sequentially reads values required for the calculation from the RAM 14 and calculates the word sense relevance values in the above-described manner. The controller 11 sequentially stores the calculated word sense relevance values into the RAM 14.

If it is determined in step F77 that the word sense relevance values have been calculated for all possible combinations of two word senses, the process is terminated.

In the calculation of word sense relevance values, as can be seen from the above description, when the central activation value of a certain word sense is changed, if the central activation value of some other word sense changes to a great degree, then that word sense is regarded as having a high relevance.

That is, if the central activation value of a certain word sense is changed in step F74, this change results in changes in the central activation values of word senses

related (linked) to that word sense. Therefore, the relevance of word senses with respect to a certain word sense can be determined from the relative changes. (As described earlier, the central activation value of an element E_i is given by the sum of the current central activation value and the end-point activation values associated with that element E_i . Herein, the end-point activation values of the element E_i depend upon the central activation value and end-point activation values of elements linked to the element E_i . Therefore, if an element E_j has a high degree of relevance to the element E_i , a change in the central activation value of the element E_i generates a large change in the central activation value of the element E_j .)

By performing the above-described process for all possible combinations of two word senses, the relevance values are obtained for all possible combinations of two word senses.

A word sense relevance value is defined between each word sense and another word sense, as shown in Fig. 16. In the example of the word sense relevance table shown in Fig. 16, word sense relevance values are normalized such that they take a value within the range from 0 to 1. In the example shown in Fig. 16, the word sense relevance values among "computer", "television", and "VTR" are described in the table. Herein, the relevance value between "computer"

Referring again to Fig. 14, after performing step F62 using the word sense relevance values which have been calculated in advance in the above-described manner, the controller 11 performs step F63 to calculate the document category relevance value $Rel(C_i)$ of a document with respect to category C_i according to the following equation:

where coefficients m_1 and n_1 are constants representing the degrees of contributions of the respective values to the document category relevance.

The controller 11 stores the calculated document category relevance value $Rel(C_i)$ into the RAM 14.

The values of coefficients m_1 and n_1 may also be

determined statistically. In this case, the controller 11 calculates the document category relevance value $Rel(C_i)$ using various values of m_1 and n_1 , and employs optimum values.

In step F64, the controller 11 categorizes the document into category C_i if the document category relevance value of the document becomes highest for category C_i and if the document category relevance value $Rel(C_i)$ is greater than a threshold value.

That is, the controller 11 calculates document category relevance values with respect to a plurality of categories, and selects a category corresponding to the highest document category relevance value. If the document category relevance value corresponding to the selected category is greater than the threshold value, the controller 11 categorizes the document into the selected category. Thus, the document is automatically categorized into a correct category.

If the highest document category relevance value is not greater than the threshold value, the document is not categorized into any category.

After performing the automatic categorization in step F23 in Fig. 14, which is described in further detail in Fig. 14, the categorization model is updated and registered in steps F24 and F25, respectively, in accordance with the

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result of the automatic categorization. Thus, the entire process associated with the automatic categorization is completed.

In this way, the document data input to the document processing apparatus 1 is automatically categorized, and displayed in a corresponding document category displaying area in the document categorization window 201 shown in Fig. 10, thereby informing the user of the reception of the document.

6. Summarization

Now, the process of generating a summary of document data is described.

As described earlier, a user can select a document and read the selected document displayed in the browser window 301 shown in Fig. 11. The browser window 301 can be opened from the categorization window 201 shown in Fig. 10 when the above-described manual categorization process is performed in step F13 or at any other time.

For example, if the user clicks the browser button 202b in the categorization window 201 after selecting a document, the browser window 301 is opened and the selected document is displayed in the document displaying area 303 as shown in Fig. 17.

When the entire document is not displayed at a time in

controller 11 to generate a summary text in response to the Summarize button 306a being clicked.

In step F81 in Fig. 19, the controller 11 spreads activation values. In the present embodiment, a summary is generated by employing elements having high degrees of significance represented by the central activation values obtained by means of spreading activation. When a given document includes tags representing the internal structure, central activation values determined by means of spreading activation in accordance with the internal structure described by tags can be assigned to the respective elements.

The process of spreading activation in step F81 is performed in a similar manner to the process described earlier with reference to Figs. 7-9. As described earlier, the spreading activation is a process in which the central activation values associated with elements are spread such that if an element has significant relation with an element having a high central activation value, then a high central activation value is given to the former element. The activation spreading process causes both an anaphoric (coreferential) expression and an antecedent thereof to have the same central activation value. On the other hand, the central activation values of the other elements decrease. The central activation values are determined in accordance with the internal structure represented by tags, and they

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14.

In the first iteration, because the string $s(i-1)$ has an initial value $s(0)$, the sentence skeleton extracted in this first operation is employed as the string $s(i)$ and stored into the RAM 14.

When step F84 is performed in the following iterations, a newly extracted sentence skeleton is added to the current string $s(i)$ (that is, string $s(i-1)$ at that time).

Furthermore, in step F84, the controller 11 generates a list $L(i)$ of elements that are not included in the sentence skeleton, wherein elements are listed in the order of descending central activation values. The controller 11 stores the resultant list $L(i)$ into the RAM 14.

The summarization algorithm employed in step F84 is to select sentences in the order of central activation values from the highest value to the lowest value on the basis of the result of spreading of activation values and extract sentence skeletons of selected sentences. The skeleton of a sentence is made up of essential elements extracted from the sentence. Elements that can be essential include a head, a subject, an object, an indirect object, and an element having a relational attribute as to possessor, cause, condition, or comparison. When a coordination structure is essential, elements included directly in the coordination structure are employed as essential elements. The

In step F85, the controller 11 determines whether the length of the string s(i) is greater than the maximum allowable number ws of characters that can be displayed in the summary displaying area 304 of the browser window 301.

If the length of the string s(i) is less than the maximum allowable number ws of characters, the controller 11 advances the process to step F86.

In step F86, the controller 11 compares the central activation values of elements of a sentence having an (i+1)th highest mean central activation value of sentences included in the document with the highest central activation value among those of elements included in the list L(i) generated in step F84.

That is, a sentence (a candidate having highest priority among the remaining sentences) whose mean central activation value is next in magnitude to that of a sentence that has been employed in step F84 as a part of the summary is compared with the central activation values of elements that have been regarded as being not essential and omitted

from the skeletons of sentences employed in step F84 to generate the summary.

Thus, in step F86, it is determined whether an element omitted from the sentence skeleton employed in the previous step F84 should be now added to the summary or an element of another sentence should be added.

If the highest central activation value among those of elements in the list $L(i)$ is higher than those of elements of the sentence having the $(i+1)$ th highest mean central activation value, an element is selected from the elements that were not employed in the sentence skeleton in the previous step F84 and the selected element is added to the summary string.

In this case, the controller 11 advance the process to step F88 and selects an element having the highest central activation value from the list $L(i)$ and adds the selected element to the current string $s(i)$ thereby generating a string $ss(i)$.

The controller 11 then removes the selected element from the list $L(i)$.

In step F89, the controller 11 determines whether the length of the string $ss(i)$ is greater than the maximum allowable value ws . If not, the process returns to step F86.

On the other hand, if it is determined in step F86 that the sentence having the $(i+1)$ th highest mean central

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entire summary is displayed in the summary displaying area 304 in a fixed fashion as shown in Fig. 18.

When the user reads the summary displayed in the summary displaying area 304, if the user wants a longer or shorter summary, the user may click the Summarize button 306a after increasing or decreasing the size of the summary displaying area 304 in the browser window 301.

In response, the process shown in Fig. 19 is performed, and a summary having a length matching the specified size of the summary displaying area 304 is generated and displayed.

7. Reading-aloud Process

As described above, when the document processing apparatus 1 receives a document including a tag, the document or a summary thereof is displayed so that a user can read it. Furthermore, the document processing apparatus 1 is capable of outputting a voice that reads aloud the received document.

In this case, a read-aloud program stored in the ROM 15 or the HDD 34, in which other various electronic document processing programs are also stored, is started to perform the process shown in Fig. 20 thereby reading aloud a document.

The outline of the read-aloud process is described first, and then various steps of the read-aloud process are

metastasis. A simple increase in the number of cancer cells does not cause metastasis. Recent investigations have revealed that metastasis occurs via a complicated process in which cancer cells dissolve a protein or the like between cells thereby creating a path through which to invade a blood vessel or a lymph vessel. After invading a blood or lymph vessel, cancer cells circulate in the blood vessel to find a new "habitation". A new actor has recently appeared on the stage. The actor is a protein called "nm23". An investigation performed in the USA has revealed that nm23 has a capability of suppressing metastasis, although the detailed mechanism has not been revealed yet. Protein nm23 is expected to be useful for diagnosis and curing of cancer.

The content of the English document is shown below.

"During its centennial year, The Wall Street Journal will report events of the past century that stand as milestones of American business history. THREE COMPUTERS THAT CHANGED the face of personal computing were launched in 1977. That year the Apple II, Commodore Pet and Tandy TRS came to market. The computers were crude by today's standards. Apple II owners, for example, had to use their television sets as screens and store data on audio cassettes."

When the document processing apparatus 1 receives such a document that is written in Japanese or English and that

includes tags, the document processing apparatus 1 may categorize it and display the content of the document or a summary thereof, as shown in Fig. 17 or 18.

The above documents written in Japanese and English are described in the form of tag files as shown in Figs. 22 and 23, respectively.

Fig. 18B illustrates a part of the last paragraph of the tag file.

Note that the tag file actually includes the entire part from the title to the end of the last paragraph.

In Fig. 22A, a tag <title> is used to indicate that the part following this tag is the title.

In the tag file shown in Figs. 22A and 22B, tags are inserted in a similar manner to tags used to describe the document data structure as described earlier with reference to Fig. 3. Although all tags are not described here, a plurality of tags for controlling voice synthesis are put at various locations.

An example of a voice synthesis control tag is that which is attached when a document includes information representing the pronunciation of a word, as is the case with Example 1 shown in Fig. 18B. In this example, pronunciation = "null" is described as attribute information in a tag to prevent pronunciation characters "(たんぱく)" representing the pronunciation of a word "蛋白" located

file, only a single attribute data Com=begin_ph is embedded in a read-out file instead of embedding as many attribute data as there are successive tags in the same level.

In the read-out file, attribute information Pau = 500, Pau = 100, and Pau 50 are embedded at locations corresponding to Com = begin_p, Com = begin_s, and Com = begin_ph, respectively, to indicate that pauses with periods of 500 msec, 100 msec, and 50 msec, respectively, should be inserted in the read-aloud operation.

More specifically, in accordance with these attribute codes, the document processing apparatus 1 inserts pauses with periods of 500 msec, 100 msec, and 50 msec, at the starts of paragraphs, sentences, and phrases, respectively, when the document is read aloud using the voice synthesis engine.

These attribute codes are embedded at locations corresponding to attribute codes Com = begin_p, Com = begin_s, and Com = begin_ph, respectively. Therefore, when a plurality of tags representing syntactic structures in the same level appear successively in a tag file, such as <adverb phrase><noun phrase>, these tags can be regarded as being associated with a single phrase, and only one attribute code Pau = 50 is embedded for each phrase without embedding as many attribute codes as there are tags associated with one phrase.

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In step F104 shown in Fig. 20, an operation is performed in response to a command issued by a user via the user interface as described below.

If a user clicks the read-out button 306c shown in Fig. 17 or 18 using the mouse or the like of the input unit 20, the document processing apparatus 1 activates the voice synthesis engine.

Furthermore, the document processing apparatus 1 displays the read-out window 401 serving as the user interface such as that shown in Fig. 25 on the display 30.

As shown in Fig. 22, the read-out window 401 includes a play button 420 used to start the read-out operation, a stop button 421 used to stop the read-out operation, and the pause button 422 used to temporarily stop the read-out operation.

The read-out window 401 further includes a search button 411, a fast reverse button 412, and a fast forward button 413, for controlling the read-aloud position in units of sentences. Similarly, a search button 414, a fast reverse button 415, and a fast forward button 416 are provided for controlling the read-aloud position in units of paragraphs. Furthermore, a search button 417, a fast reverse button 418, and a fast forward button 419 are provided for controlling the read-aloud position in units of phrases.

The above-described capability is useful when a desired part of a document is reproduced in response to a request issued by the user.

Thus, the document processing apparatus 1 has the capability of reading aloud a desired document in a natural fashion using the voice synthesis engine.

Although in the present embodiment, a read-out file is generated from a tag file that has been internally generated or received from the outside, it is also possible to directly read aloud a tag file without generating a read-out

file.

In this case, after receiving or generating a tag file, the document processing apparatus 1 detects the start positions of paragraphs, sentences, and phrases from tags attached to the tag file and reads aloud the tag file using the voice synthesis engine such that pauses are inserted at detected start positions. This allows the document processing apparatus to directly read aloud a tag file without having to generate a read-out file.

8. Configuration of the Authoring Apparatus

As described above, the document processing apparatus 1 is capable of categorizing received document data in accordance with a categorization model, displaying an original document or a summary thereof, generating a summary text having a length corresponding to the current window size, and reading aloud an original document or a summary thereof. Thus, a user can view or listen to received document data using the document processing apparatus 1.

However, in order for the document processing apparatus 1 to perform the above-described processes, the document data should be written in the form of a tag file. To this end, an authoring apparatus 2 shown in Fig. 1 is used to perform an authoring process thereby converting a given original document in the form of a plain text into document

The configuration of the authoring apparatus 2 and operations thereof are described in detail below.

As shown in Fig. 27, the authoring apparatus 2 includes a main unit 71 including a controller 72 and an interface 76, an input unit 78 used by a user (a human operator doing an authoring work using the authoring apparatus 2) to input data or a command to the main unit 71, a communication device 77 for transmitting and receiving a signal to or from an external device, a display unit 79 for displaying an output from the main unit 71, a write/read unit 80 for writing and reading information onto and from a recording medium 81, and an HDD (hard disk drive) 82.

The controller 72 includes a CPU 73 for controlling various processes performed by the authoring apparatus 2, a RAM 74 serving as a volatile memory, and a ROM 75 serving as a nonvolatile memory. Herein, the processes performed by the authoring apparatus 2 under the control of the controller 72 include an authoring process (denoted by reference numeral 2a in Fig. 1) for a plain text, generation of document data in the form of a plain text (denote by

reference numeral 1b in Fig. 1), a process for inputting a plain text from an external device, a process for outputting document data to an external device after completion of an authoring process, and an interfacing process for displaying and inputting data during the above-described processes.

The CPU 73 performs the above-described processes in accordance with various programs stored in, for example, the ROM 75. During execution of programs, the CPU 73 temporarily stores data in the RAM 74 as required.

The controller 72 performs the authoring process in accordance with the authoring program 2c stored in the ROM 73 or the HDD 82, as will be described in detail later.

Alternatively, an authoring program 5 may be supplied from the external to the authoring apparatus 2 via a storage medium 81 or via a communication line 6 and stored in the ROM 73 or the HDD 82. Instead of storing the ROM 73 or the HDD 82, the authoring program received via the storage medium 81 or the communication line 6 may be stored directly into the RM 74, and the authoring program stored therein may be used.

The interface 76 is connected to the controller 72, the input unit 78, the communication device 77, the display 79, the write/read unit 80, and the HDD 82.

Under the control of the controller 72, the interface 76 inputs data via the input unit 78, inputs and outputs

data from and to the communication device 77, outputs data to the display 79, inputs and outputs data from and to the write/read unit 80, and inputs and outputs data from and to the HDD 82. More specifically, in the above interfacing operations, the interface 72 adjusts timing of inputting or outputting data between various parts described above and also converts data format as required.

The input unit 78 is used by a user to input data or a command to the authoring apparatus 2. The input unit 78 may include a keyboard and a mouse. Using the keyboard of the input unit 78, the user may input characters to the authoring apparatus 2. The user may also click, using the mouse, a desired operation control button or icon displayed on the display 79. The mouse may also be used by the user to select document element.

The communication device 77 serves to receive a signal that is transmitted by an external apparatus to the authoring apparatus 2 via the communication line 6. The communication device 77 also serves to transmit a signal over the communication line 6.

More specifically, the communication device 77 receives one more plain texts (documents including no tags) transmitted from a document provider 4 shown in Fig. 1. The communication device 77 also receives an authoring program 5. The received data or program is transferred to the main unit

71.

Furthermore, the communication device 77 also transmits data to an external apparatus via the communication line 6. More specifically, the communication device 77 transmits document data generated by means of the authoring process to the server 3.

The display 79 serves to display information such as characters and/or images that are output during the authoring process performed by the authoring apparatus 2. The display 79 may be formed of a cathode ray tube or a liquid crystal display. The display 79 may display one or more windows in which characters and/or graphic images are displayed.

The write/read unit 80 serves to write and read data to and from a storage medium 81 such as a floppy disk or an optical disk. The storage medium 81 is not limited to the floppy disk or the As for the write/read unit 80, a device (such as a disk drive or a card drive) adapted to writing/reading data to and from an employed medium may be used.

In the case where an authoring program is stored on the storage medium 81, the write/read unit 80 may read the authoring program from the storage medium 81 and transfer it to the controller 72.

When a plain text is stored on the storage medium 81,

The controller 72 of the authoring apparatus 2 may also supply document data generated through the authoring process to the server 3 by supplying a storage medium 81 on which the document data is stored using the write/read unit 80.

The HDD 82 is used to store various application programs such as an authoring program executed by the controller 72. The HDD 82 may also be used to store a plain text input to the authoring apparatus 2 or document data generated through the authoring process.

The authoring process performed by the authoring apparatus 2 is described below with reference to a flow chart shown in Fig. 28. The flow chart in Fig. 28 illustrates the process performed by the controller 72 in accordance with the authoring program.

Figs. 29 to 43 illustrate some examples of the

To start the authoring process shown in Fig. 28, the controller 72 first starts the authoring process.

More specifically, the controller 71 displays, on the display 70, a list of one or more plain texts that are stored in the RAM 74, the HDD 82, or the storage medium 81 after being received from the document provider 4 or after being generated by the authoring apparatus 2 so that a user can select a desired plain text. If the user designates one of plain texts from the list, the controller 72 selects the designated plain text.

More specifically, the plain text is displayed in the authoring window 601, for example, in such a manner as shown in Fig. 29.

The file name of the selected plain text is displayed

The user can arbitrarily change the sizes of the document displaying areas 602 and 603 by moving the boundary between them. The sizes of the document displaying area 602 and 603 may also be changed automatically as required during the authoring process.

In step F202, the controller 72 performs the morphological analysis upon the plain text.

The result of the morphological analysis is displayed in the document displaying area 602 in the authoring window 601. Fig. 30 shows an example of the result displayed in

In this specific example, boundaries between morphological elements are represented by slashes "/", wherein determined and undetermined portions are distinguished by the color of slashes.

Because it is not allowed to use various colors in Figs. 30-43, slashes "/" with a normal color (the same color as that used to display characters) are used to represent determined boundaries, and undetermined boundaries are represented by marks "●" that will be represented by red slashes if red color is allowed to be used. Hereinafter, "/" is called simply a slash, and "●" is called a red slash.

Green slashes will also be used later. To represent green slashes, marks "◆" will be used, and marks "◆" will be called green slashes.

Those elements that have been definitely separated and determined as to the parts of speech, boundaries of the elements are represented by slashes "/" in the document displaying area 602 as shown in Fig. 30.

If an element has a plurality of candidates, the element is underlined and the boundary is represented by a red slash "●".

When the part of speech for an element is undefined, the boundary thereof is represented by a red slash "●" without being underlined.

When a user views the analysis result, he/she may determine the undetermined boundaries and/or parts of speech using the mouse or keyboard of the input unit 78. The user may also modify sentences, if necessary.

In step F204, the controller 72 performs a process such as selection of a part of speech from a plurality of candidates and modification of a sentence in response to an inputting operation performed by the user. Each time the controller 72 performs such a process, the result is displayed in step F202. Morphological analysis may be performed again if necessary. More specifically, if a sentence is added, morphological analysis may be performed for the added sentence.

If the user clicks an undetermined element indicated by a red slash "●" and an underline, candidates regarding morphemes and parts of speech thereof are displayed. Fig. 31 illustrates a specific example in which the controller 72 displays, in step F204, candidates regarding morphemes and parts of speech for "素敵" that has been clicked by the user. Herein "素敵" is a Japanese word corresponding to an English word "wonderful". In Fig. 31, a selected portion is represented in a reversed fashion. Alternatively, a selected portion may also be represented by colored characters. In other figures, a selected portion may be represented in either fashion.

The user may select (click) a correct candidate thereby determining the undetermined portion.

In Fig. 31, if the user selects a candidate on the second row in the selection window in which two candidates are displayed, the boundary and the part of speech of the undetermined portion are determined. As a result, the text is displayed in the document displaying area 602 in the manner in which "素敵に" is indicated by a slash "/" as a determined morphological element, as shown in Fig. 32.

If a user designates a portion whose part of speech is undefined and that is delimited by a red slash "●" without being underlined, a message window appears, as shown in Fig. 33, to indicate that the part of speech is undefined. In the specific example shown in Fig. 33, the controller 72 displays, in step F204, a message to notify the user that a portion "エイジング" (aging) clicked by the user is undefined.

The user may define such an undefined word. If the user again clicks the same portion, the controller 72 opens an editor window 620, as shown in Fig. 34, to prompt the user to input data.

The editor window 620 includes a tag name box 621, a tag attribute box 622, an OK button 623, and a cancel button 624.

When a word is undefined, "seg" is displayed in the tag name box 621, as shown in Fig. 34, to indicate that a given

word is an undefined element. In the specific example shown in Fig 34, "エイジング" (aging) is displayed as an undefined word in the tag attribute box 622.

In the tag attribute box 622, the user may define the part of speech. For example, if selects "n" from a pull-down menu of the tag name box 621, then "n" is displayed in the tab name box 622 as shown in Fig. 35. Herein, "n" represents "noun".

In this state, if the user clicks the OK button 623, the controller 72 sets the element "エイジング" (aging) to be a noun.

In response to the change in the tag name, the slash displayed in the document displaying area 602 is changed to a green slash "◆".

As described above, when an analysis result is presented to the user, the user may determine delimitation and the parts of speech of undetermined portions indicated by red slashes "●" and may also define undefined words. Furthermore, if the user adds or modifies a sentence, the controller 72 performs morphological analysis upon the added or modified sentence and displays the analysis result using slashes "/", red slashes "●", and underlines, as required. If the analysis result includes a red slash "●", the user may determine delimitation and the parts of speech of undetermined portions or may define undefined words

The user performs the above-described operation until the document displayed in the document displaying area 602 includes no red slashes "●".

At this stage, it is determined in step F203 that the morphological process has been completed. That is, at this stage, all words in the lowest layer of the document data structure described earlier with reference to Fig. 3 have been determined in terms of delimitation and parts of speech. In other words, tags have been attached in units of words.

More specifically, the controller 72 attaches tags to the text so as to indicate a hierarchical structures including words, subsentential segments, and sentences in accordance with morphemes and the parts of speech thereof, as shown in Fig. 3.

The result is displayed in the document displaying area 602, as shown in Fig. 38.

In the specific example shown in Fig. 38, one tag is indicated by a combination of a slash, an underline, and a tag name.

In Fig. 38, each read slash "●" is used to indicate that an element having a red slash "●" has a plurality of candidates modified by that element.

Tag names used herein include

n (noun), np (noun phrase),

v (verb), vp (verb phrase),

aj (adjective), ajp (adjective phrase),

ad (adverb), adp (adverb phrase),

ij (interjection),

time (time), timep (time phrase),

name (proper noun), namep (proper noun phrase),

persname (person name), persnamep (person name phrase),

orgname (organization name), orgnamep (organization

name phrase),

geogname (geographical name), geognamep (geographical

name phrase),

num (numeral), and nump (numeral phrase).

The tag names described above are some examples, and tag names may be given in many different manners, and there may be additional various tags. Furthermore, the manner in which tags are represented is not limited to the above-described example.

When a user views the result of generation of tags associated with higher-level document structure, the user may determine undetermined portions using the mouse or keyboard of the input unit 78. The user may also modify sentences as required.

The process may return to step F202 to again perform the morphological analysis, if required. This may occur, for example, when a sentence is added.

More specifically, the controller 72 displays two words

"調節" (adjustment) and "機能" (function) as candidates.

When candidates are presented, the user may select (click) a correct candidate thereby determining the word modified by the modifier.

For example, if the user clicks "機能" (function), it is determined that "機能" (function) is modified by "正常な" (normal).

The user performs the above operation to determine all undetermined portions until the document data includes no red slashes "●".

Tags generated in step F205 indicate structures in levels of words, subsentential segments, and sentences shown in Fig. 3. On the other hand, tags for indicating structures in higher levels, such as paragraphs, subdivisions, and a document are described by the user in step F207.

For example, if the user designates "[素敵にエイジング....
抑えられる!?" in the document data, the controller 72 opens
the editor window 602 as shown in Fig. 40 so that the user
may describe a tag.

In this specific example shown in Fig. 40, "h1" is selected by the user from a pull-down menu displayed in the tag name displaying box 621. Herein, "h" (h1, h2,...) represents a heading.

In this state, if the user clicks the OK button 623,

the controller 72 determines that "[素敵にエイジング.....抑えられる!?" is designated as a heading-1 and attaches a corresponding tag.

As a result, in the document display area 602, a green slash "◆", an underline, and a tag "h1" are attached to "[素敵にエイジング.....抑えられる!?", as shown in Fig. 41.

Tags that were attached in step F205 to each sentence of the document are also shown in Fig. 41. That is, tags shown in Fig. 14 indicate sentence structures in higher levels than those indicating dependency-relations shown in Fig. 39. As can be seen from Fig. 41, tags described in step F205 and being now displayed include slashes "/", underlines, and tags "su" attached to the respective sentences. Herein, tags "su" are used to indicate "sentences".

As described above, the user may check the tags generated by the controller 72 to indicate document structures in levels higher than words, determine dependency-relations by selecting adequate elements from candidates, and add tags indicating further higher-level structures such as paragraphs and document.

That is, the user advances his/her job at least until the document data displayed in the document displaying area 602 includes no red slashes "●". During the job, the user may describe tags indicating paragraphs, headings, and the

When the above-described process is completed, it is determined in step F206 that the tagging process has been completed. At this stage, tags indicating document structures in the levels from words to sentences and paragraphs, subdivisions, and document described earlier with reference to Fig. 3 have been described.

If the user clicks the Generate button 605b in Fig. 42, a browser image is displayed in the document displaying area 603 in addition to the text including tags displayed in the document displaying area 602, so that the user can view the text in the same manner as that in which the text would be presented to an end user (using the document processing apparatus 1). More specifically, in response to the tag "h1" added in the above process to indicate the heading, the heading portion is displayed in boldface.

Because the user can view the image of the document data, the user can determine whether tagging has been performed correctly. If an incorrect tag or an incorrect sentence is found, the user may issue a command in step F207

When the user views the displayed document, if a wrong referential relation is found, the user may correct it. The user may also select a word and define a new reference link associated with the selected word.

When a certain word is selected in the document displaying area 602, if no reference link is defined for that word, no referent is displayed in the document displaying area 603. If necessary, in this case, the user may define a reference link by designating a referent in the document displaying area 603.

During the above process, the user may also add a new

If it is determined in step F209 that all reference links have been determined in accordance with the operation performed by the user, the process goes to step F211. In step F211, the completed document data including tags is stored as authored document data in the RAM 74 or the HDD 82.

The server 3 supplies the document data stored in the database 3a to an end user's apparatus such as the document processing apparatus 1. Thus, the end user can perform various processes (displaying the document, generating and displaying a summary of the document, reading aloud the document of the summary) upon the document data using the document processing apparatus 1.

As described above, the authoring apparatus 2 divides the original document (plain text) into morphological elements and adds morphological information thereto. The authoring apparatus 2 also adds information representing the hierarchical document structures and also adds information indicating referential relations between elements in the original document. Thus, the authoring apparatus 2

generates document data (tag file) in a form that makes it possible to perform desired processing upon the document data.

In the authoring process described above, morphological analysis is first performed, and then the document structure is defined from the lowest level to the highest level. Delimitations, parts of speech, words modified by modifiers, and referents referred to by anaphora or cataphora are determined by a user by selecting one of candidates displayed.

Thus, the user can easily do an authoring job on the authoring apparatus 2 without having to have high-level knowledge about a language and the grammar thereof. This means that the use can correctly attach tags to the document depending on the content thereof, without having to have knowledge about the grammar.

Thus, the user can do the authoring job quickly and correctly simply by designating a particular portion of the document and selecting a candidate.

In accordance with an input given by a user, the authoring apparatus 2 determines delimitation of a given document, adds or modifies reference information or information representing document structures, and adds, modifies, or deletes sentences, thereby attaching complicated tags to the document in an adequate fashion that

Furthermore, candidates in terms of separators between adjacent morphemes, morphological information, information about document structures, and reference information are displayed on a display device thereby allowing a user to easily recognize the status of the authoring process and easily perform the authoring process.

For example, instead of performing an authoring process upon a plain text that has already been generated, a user may perform an authoring process while generating a plain text. In this case, each time the user inputs a sentence, morphological analysis is performed upon the input sentence, and the result is displayed using slashes, underlines, and the like. The user may determine morphological definitions by properly selecting candidates and may modify the sentence as required. After that, the user may input another sentence.

The manner of displaying the status of the authoring process is not limit to use of slashes "/", red slashes "●",

green slashes "◆", underlines, and tags. The status of the authoring process may also be displayed in various manners depending on the authoring program, the display device, and fonts employed.

Furthermore, the manners of displaying candidates in various stages during the authoring process are not limited to the examples described above.

The authoring apparatus and the document data providing system have been described above with reference to specific embodiments. Note that the authoring apparatus 2 and the system including the authoring apparatus 2 may be configured in various manners.

Furthermore, the respective parts of the authoring apparatus 2, such as the main unit 71, the display 79, the input device 78, the communication device 77, the write/read unit 80, and the HD 82, may also be configured in various manners, and they may be connected to one another in various manners. For example, as for the input device 78, not only the keyboard and the mouse, but also other devices such as a tablet, a light pen, and a wireless command inputting device using an infrared ray may be employed.

Furthermore, the authoring apparatus 2 may include a plurality of similar devices such as write/read units. The authoring apparatus 2 may further include other types of devices such as a printer and an audio output device.

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The authoring apparatus 2 may be realized in the form of a dedicated apparatus or may be implemented on a general-purpose information processing apparatus such as a desk-top personal computer, a portable personal computer, and a workstation.

In the embodiment described above, some examples of manners of tagging a document have been described. However, the present invention is not limited to such examples.

In the embodiment described above, a document written in Japanese and a document written in English have been taken as examples. However, the present invention is not limited to those languages.

Note that various modifications and changes are possible without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

The functions of the present invention may be realized by an authoring program stored on a storage medium in the form of a disk or a tape. Note that such a storage medium also falls within the scope of the present invention.

Similarly, the functions of the present invention may also be realized by an authoring program stored on the HDD 84 shown in Fig. 1.

Using such a storage medium, it is possible to supply a program for implementing the above-described authoring method. This makes it possible to realize the authoring

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apparatus according to the present invention, on a general-purpose computer or the like.

Various types of storage media may be employed as the above-described storage medium. They include a floppy disk, an optical disk, a magnetooptical disk, a magnetic tape, a memory card using a flash memory or the like, and a memory chip.

The program implementing the authoring method according to the present invention may also be supplied via a communication network such as the Internet. This means that the present invention may also be applied to a storage medium used in a program server or used in a communication process.

As can be understood from the above description, the present invention has great advantages as described below.

That is, an original document (plain text) is divided into morphological elements, and morphological information is added thereto. Information representing the hierarchical document structures is also added. Furthermore information indicating referential relations between portions in the original document is also added. Thus, document data (tag file) is generated in a form that makes it possible to perform various processes upon the document data.

Because morphological analysis is first performed and then document structures are described step by step in the

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The combination of the automatic analysis and determination as to morphological definitions of elements, description of document structures and referential relations also allows the user to easily obtain desired document data.

Furthermore, by presenting candidates in terms of delimitations of morphological elements, morphological information, reference information, and information representing document structures, it becomes possible for a user to easily recognize the status of the authoring process and easily advance the authoring process.

The present invention also provides the method including the steps of automatically analyze an original document to be processed, adding information to the original document, modifying, adding, or deleting information in

accordance with an input given by a user in response to the result of the automatic analysis, and generating document data including information added via the automatic analysis and modified via the modification/addition process according to the input given by the user. That is, document data including added information (various tags) is generated via the automatic analysis and the process performed in accordance with inputs given by the user thereby allowing the user to easily obtain document data generated as intended by the user. In the automatic analysis and the process performed in accordance with inputs given by the user, information is added in a step-by-step fashion in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the document structure thereby making it possible to add information in a highly efficient and correct fashion.

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wherein when candidates of internal information are attached by said automatic analysis means to an electronic document, said information presenting means presents information for prompting a user to select one of said candidates of internal information.

4. A document processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different manners in which said electronic document is divided into morphemes.

5. A document processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different document structures.

6. A document processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different referential relations between portions of said electronic document.

7. A document processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said correction means corrects the internal information associated with said electronic document by adding, removing, or modifying internal information.

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9. A document processing method comprising the steps of:
attaching structure information representing a document
structure to said electronic document by automatically
analyzing said electronic document;

correcting said internal information associated with
said electronic document in response to an operation
performed by the user in accordance with the internal
information displayed on the display.

10. A document processing method according to Claim 9,
wherein said step of attaching structure information

11. A document processing method according to Claim 10, wherein if candidates of internal information are attached in said step of attaching structure information, said step of presenting information presents information so as to prompt a user to select one of said candidates of internal information.

12. A document processing method according to Claim 11, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different manners in which said electronic document is divided into morphemes.

13. A document processing method according to Claim 11, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different document structures.

14. A document processing method according to Claim 11, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different referential relations between portions of said electronic document.

16. A document processing method according to Claim 9, wherein said step of attaching structure information automatically analyses said electronic document as to the document structure in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure, and wherein said correction step corrects the internal structure of said electronic document in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure.

automatically analyzing an electronic document and attaching structure information representing a document structure to said electronic document in accordance with the result of said automatic analysis;

presenting information about the electronic document including said structure information so that a user may correct internal information associated with said electronic

document on the basis of said information displayed on a display; and

correcting said internal information associated with said electronic document in response to an operation performed by the user in accordance with the internal information displayed on the display.

18. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 17, wherein said step of attaching structure information includes the steps of dividing said electronic document into morphemes and attaching morphological information to the respective morphemes.

19. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 18, wherein if candidates of internal information are attached in said step of attaching structure information, said step of presenting information presents information so as to prompt a user to select one of said candidates of internal information.

20. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 19, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different manners in which said electronic document is divided into

morphemes.

21. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 19, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different document structures.

22. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 19, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different referential relations between portions of said electronic document.

23. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 17, wherein said correction step corrects the internal information associated with said electronic document by adding, removing, or modifying internal information.

24. A storage medium including a computer-controllable program stored thereon, according to Claim 17, wherein said step of attaching structure information automatically analyses said electronic document as to the document structure in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure.

automatically analyzing an electronic document and attaching structure information representing a document structure to said electronic document in accordance with the result of said automatic analysis;

presenting information about the electronic document including said structure information so that a user may correct internal information associated with said electronic document on the basis of said information displayed on a display; and

correcting said internal information associated with said electronic document in response to an operation performed by the user in accordance with the internal information displayed on the display.

26. A signal carrying a computer-controllable program, according to Claim 25, wherein said step of attaching structure information includes the steps of dividing said electronic document into morphemes and attaching morphological information to the respective morphemes.

27. A signal carrying a computer-controllable program,
according to Claim 26, wherein if candidates of internal

28. A signal carrying a computer-controllable program, according to Claim 27, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different manners in which said electronic document is divided into morphemes.

30. A signal carrying a computer-controllable program, according to Claim 27, wherein said candidates of internal information represent different referential relations between portions of said electronic document.

31. A signal carrying a computer-controllable program, according to Claim 25, wherein said correction step corrects the internal information associated with said electronic document by adding, removing, or modifying internal information.

32. A signal carrying a computer-controllable program, according to Claim 25, wherein said step of attaching structure information automatically analyses said electronic document as to the document structure in the order from the lowest level to the highest level of the hierarchy of the document structure.

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FIG. 1

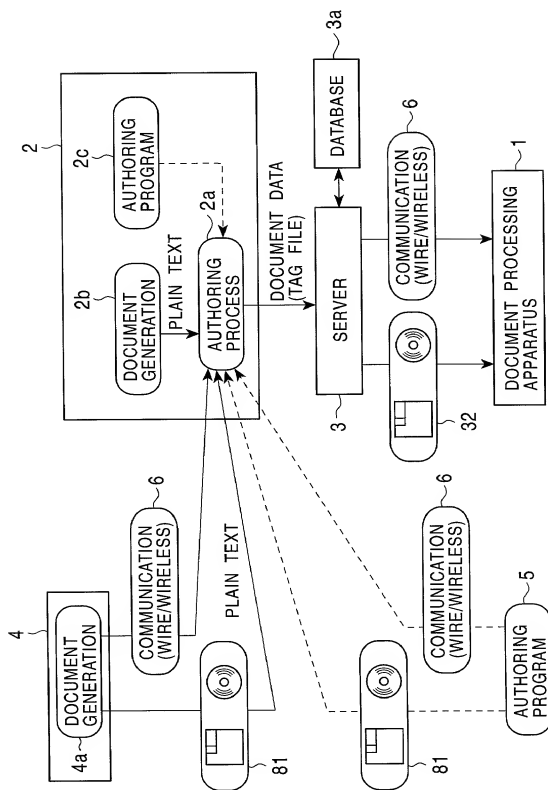


FIG. 2

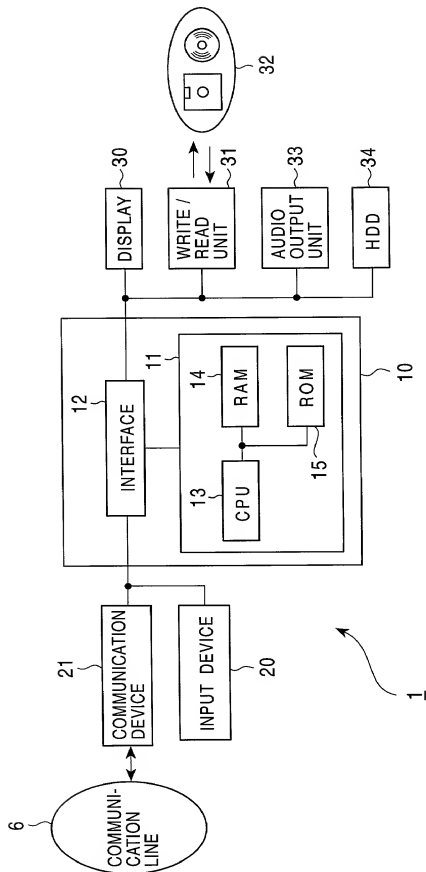
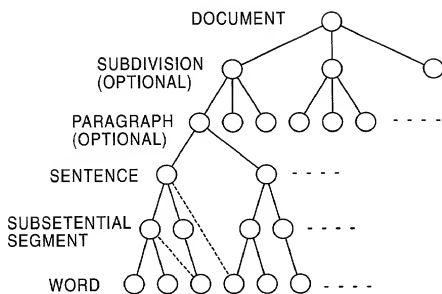


FIG. 3



- : ELEMENT
- : NORMAL LINK
- : REFERENCE LINK

FIG. 5

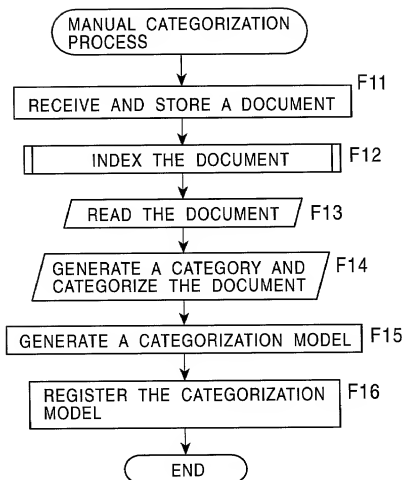


FIG. 6

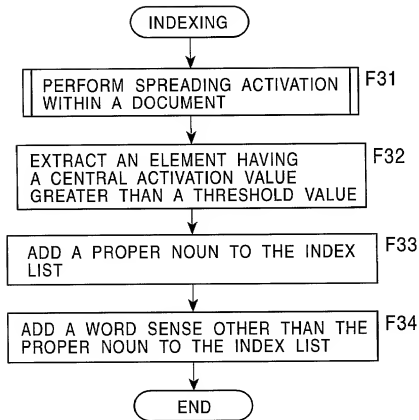
F14, F22

FIG. 7

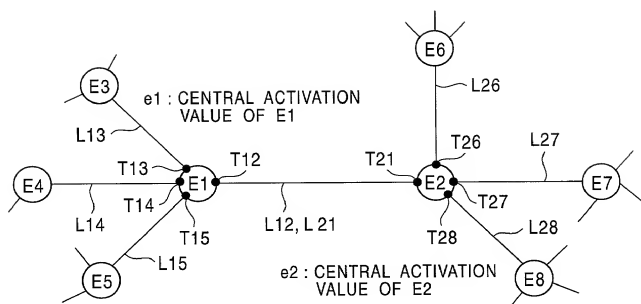


FIG. 8

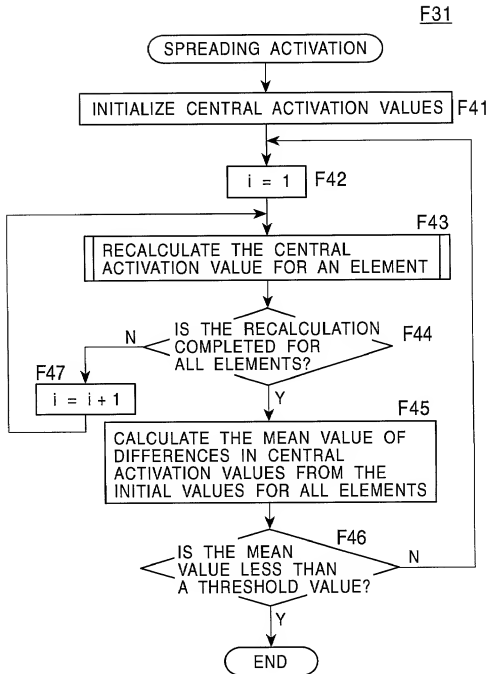


FIG. 9

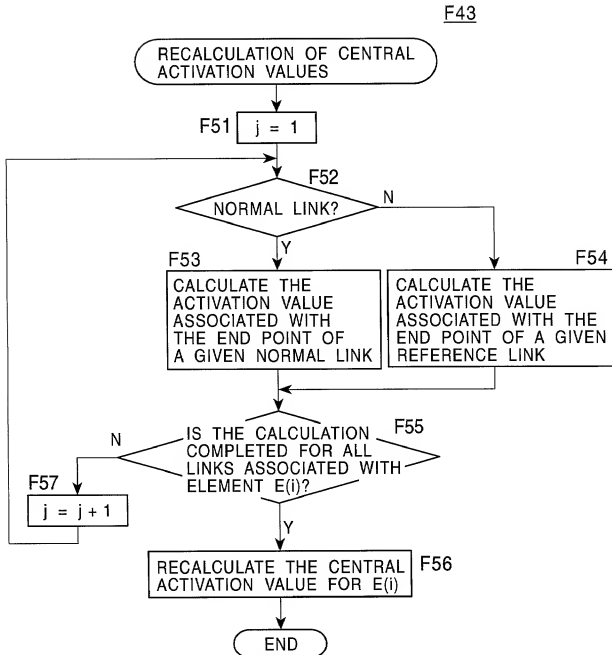


FIG. 10

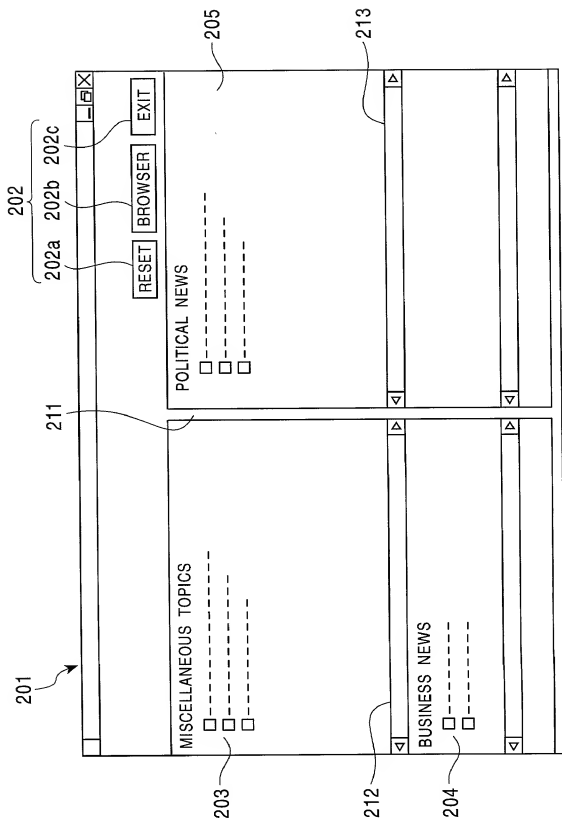


FIG. 11

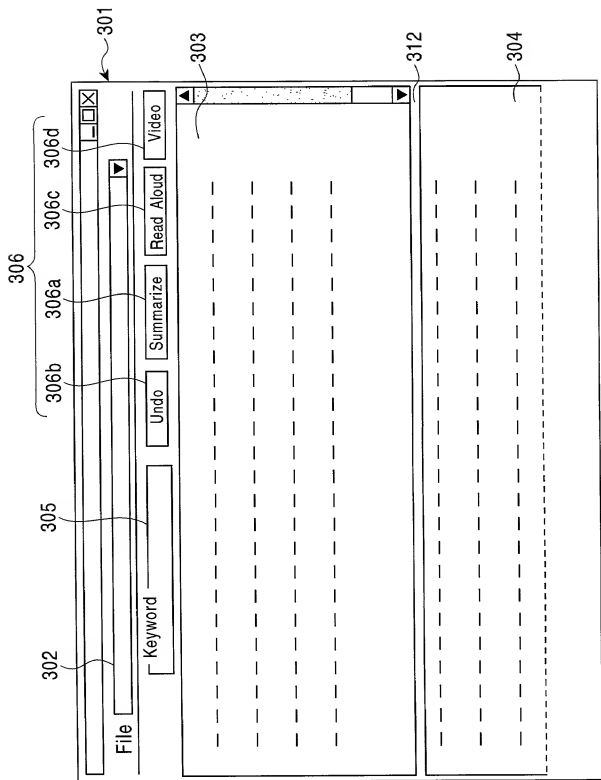


FIG. 12A

DATE AND TIME OF UPDATING	1999 : 12 : 10 : 19 : 56 : 10					
CATEGORY	SPORT	COMPANY	COMPUTER	PLANT	ART	EVENT
INDEX	IDX1	IDX2	IDX3	IDX4	IDX5	IDX6
	IDX7	IDX8	IDX9	IDX10	IDX11	IDX12
	IDX13		IDX14			
	IDX15					

FIG. 12B

DATE AND TIME OF UPDATING	1999 : 12 : 10 : 19 : 56 : 10					
CATEGORY	SPORT	COMPANY	COMPUTER	PLANT	ART	EVENT
PROPER NOUN	MR. A	B COMPANY	C COMPANY G COMPANY	D SPECIES	MR. E	MR. F
WORD SENSE	BASEBALL (4546) GROUND (2343)	LABOR (3112) EMPLOYMENT (9821)	MOBILE (2102)	CHERRY-1 (1111) ORANGE-1 (9911)	CHERRY-2 (1112) ORANGE-2 (9912)	CHERRY-3 (1113)
DOCUMENT ADDRESS	SP1	SO1	CO1	PL1	AR1	EV1
	SP2	SO2	CO2	PL2	AR2	EV2
	SP3	SO3	CO3	PL3	AR3	EV3

FIG. 13

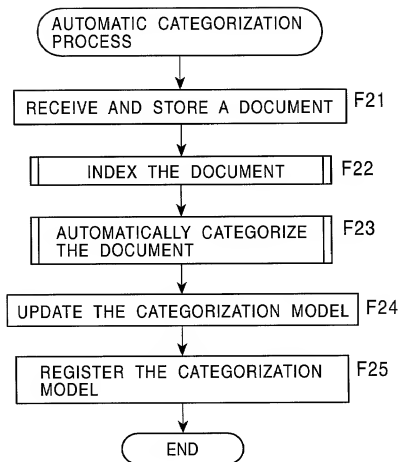


FIG. 14

F23

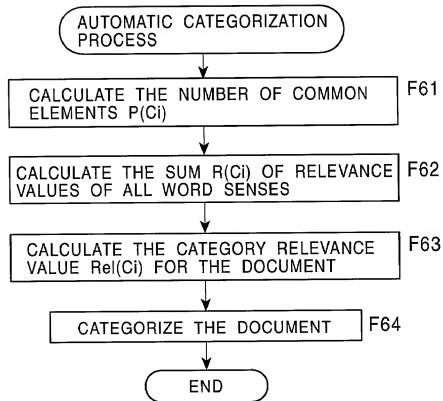


FIG. 15

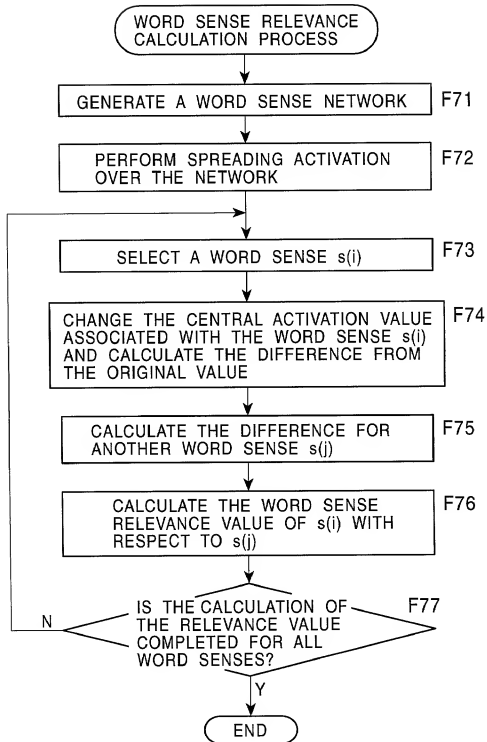


FIG. 16

	COMPUTER	TELEVISION	
COMPUTER		0.55	
TELEVISION	0.55		
VTR	0.25	0.60	

FIG. 17

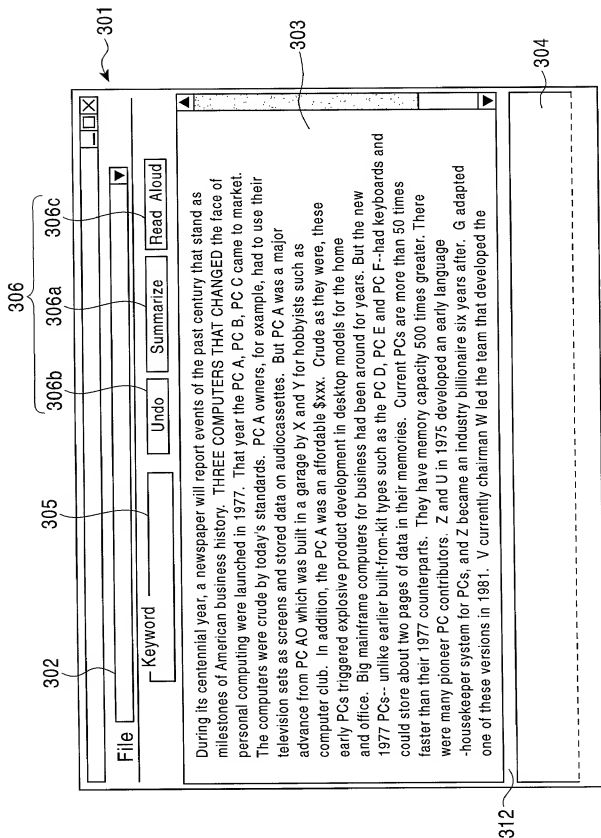


FIG. 18

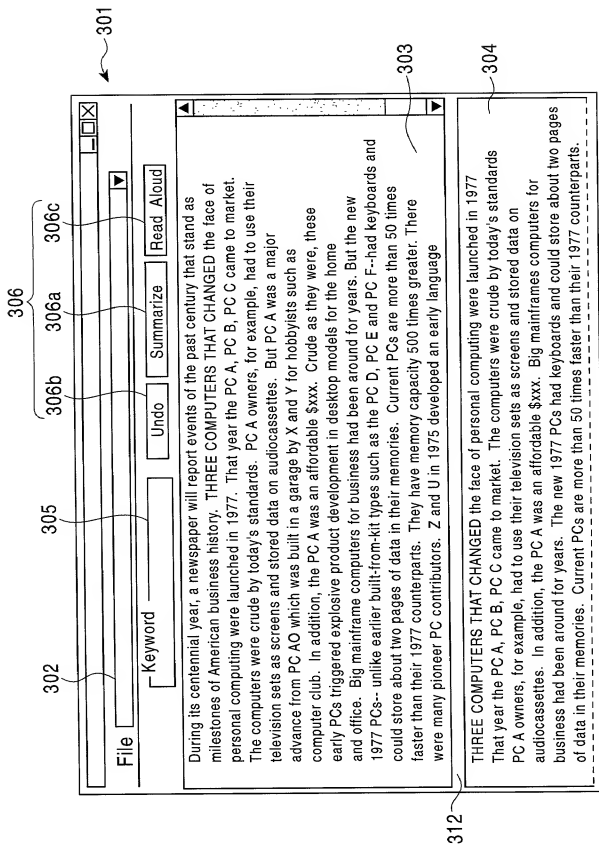


FIG. 19

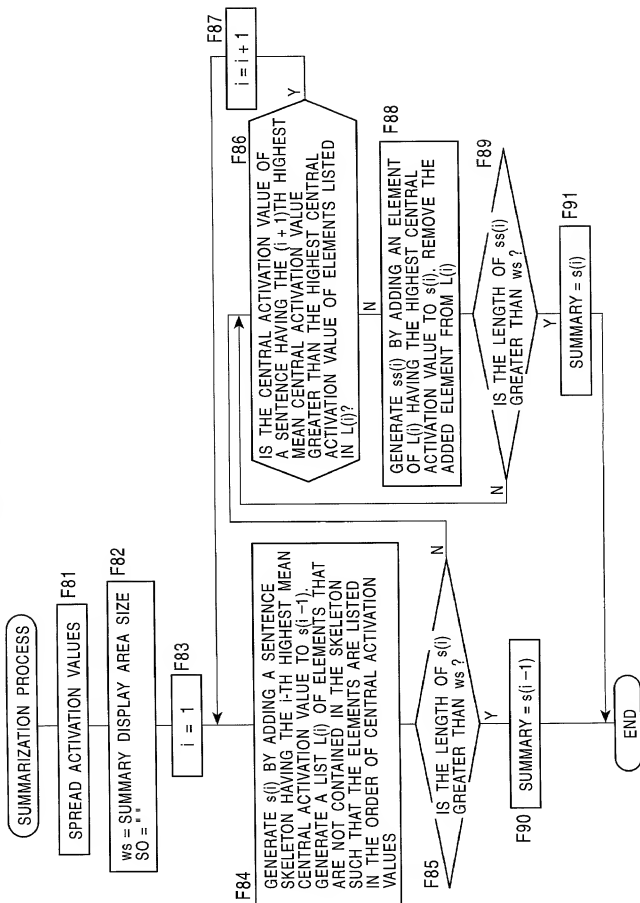


FIG. 20

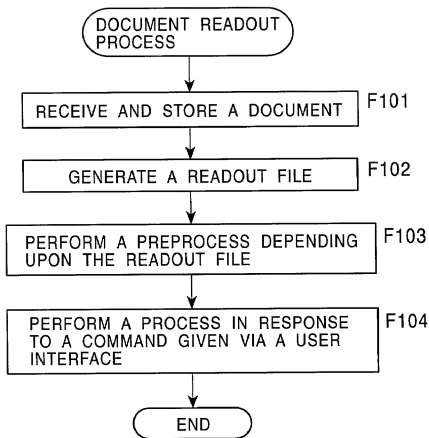


FIG. 22A

```

<document><head><sentence>[<noun phrase><adjective phrase: word sense
= "3cf072"> 素敵に </adjective phrase><noun: identifier = "a200"> エイジング
</noun></noun phrase>/8</sentence><sentence><verb phrase: identifier =
"a876"><adverb phrase: relation = "object"><noun phrase: identifier = "a1000";
relation = "subject"; word sense = "3be2c7"> ガン </noun phrase><noun:
identifier = "a8"; word sense = "Off5e7"> 転移 </noun><adverb phrase> 抑え
</verb phrase> られる ! ? </sentence></head>

```

006080:06E5E5D0

FIG. 22B

EXAMPLE 3

FIG. 23

<document><sentence><adverb phrase: relation="time">During<noun phrase:
 relation="essential"><adverb phrase: coreference="wsj">its</adverb phrase><adjective
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 noun phrase: identifier="wsj" relation="subject">The Wall Street Journal</proper noun phrase>
 will report<noun phrase: relation="object">events</adverb phrase>of<noun phrase>the past
 century</noun phrase></adverb phrase><complementary sentence><noun phrase>that</noun
 phrase>stand<adverb phrase: relation="essential">as<noun phrase>milestones<adverb phrase>
 of<noun phrase>American business history</noun phrase></adverb phrase></noun phrase>
 </adverb phrase></complementary sentence></noun phrase>.</sentence><sentence><noun
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 relation="essential">THREE</cardinal number phrase>COMPUTERS<complementary
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 phrase>personal computing</noun phrase></adverb phrase></noun phrase></complementary
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 II</noun phrase></proper noun phrase>,<proper noun phrase: identifier="cp">Commodore
 Pet</proper noun phrase>and<proper noun phrase: identifier="trs">Tandy TRS</proper noun
 phrase></proper noun phrase>came<adverb phrase: relation="essential">to market</adverb
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 coreference="a3"; relation="subject">The computers</noun phrase>were<adjective phrase:
 identifier="a87"; relation="essential">crude</adjective phrase><adverb phrase>by<noun
 phrase><adverb phrase>today's</adverb phrase>standards</noun phrase></adverb
 phrase>.</sentence><sentence: identifier="a222" relation="example"><noun phrase:
 identifier="aonrs" relation="subject"><proper noun phrase: coreference="a2">Apple<noun:
 pronunciation="two">II</noun></proper noun phrase>owners</noun phrase>
 <adjective phrase: relation="underlined">,for example,</adverb phrase><verb: syntax=
 "parallel"><verb phrase>had to use<noun phrase: relation="object"><adverb phrase:
 coreference="aonrs">their</adverb phrase>television sets</noun phrase><adverb
 phrase>as screens</adverb phrase></verb phrase>and<verb phrase>stored<noun
 phrase: relation="object">data</noun phrase><adverb phrase: relation="indirect object">
 on audiocassettes</adverb phrase></verb phrase></verb>.</sentence></set of sentences
 to be read continuously></document>

EXAMPLE 4

FIG. 24B

¥Pau=500¥¥Com=begin_p¥¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ この転移、¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ ガン細胞が増えるだけでは発生しない。¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ がん細胞が ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 細胞と ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 細胞の間にある ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 蛋白質などを溶かし、¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 自分の進む道をつくって、¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 血管や ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ りんばかんに入り込む。¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 循環しながら Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 新たな " すみか " を探して潜り込む、といった ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 複雑な動きをすることが、¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ 近年解明されつつある。

FIG. 25

¥Com=Lang=ENG¥¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Com=Vol=0¥¥Pau=50¥¥
 ¥Com=begin_ph¥During¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥its ¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥centennial year, ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥The
 Wall Street Journal will report ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥
 events¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥of ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥
 the past century ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥that stand
 Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥as ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥
 milestones ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥of ¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥American business history.
 ¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Com=Vol=80¥¥Pau=50¥¥
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 Com=begin_ph¥the face ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥ of ¥Pau=50¥¥
 ¥Com=begin_ph¥personal computing were launched ¥Pau=50¥¥
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 ¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Com=Vol=80¥¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥That year ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥the ¥
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 Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥Commodore Pet and ¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥Tandy TRS came ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥to
 market.
 ¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Com=Vol=80¥¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥The computers were ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥
 crude ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥by ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥
 today's standards. ¥Pau=100¥¥Com=begin_s¥¥Com=Vol=0¥¥
 Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥Apple two owners ¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥, for example, ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥had to
 use ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥their television sets ¥
 Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥as screens and ¥Pau=50¥¥
 Com=begin_ph¥stored ¥Pau=50¥¥Com=begin_ph¥data ¥Pau=50¥¥
 ¥Com=begin_ph¥on audiocassettes.

FIG. 26

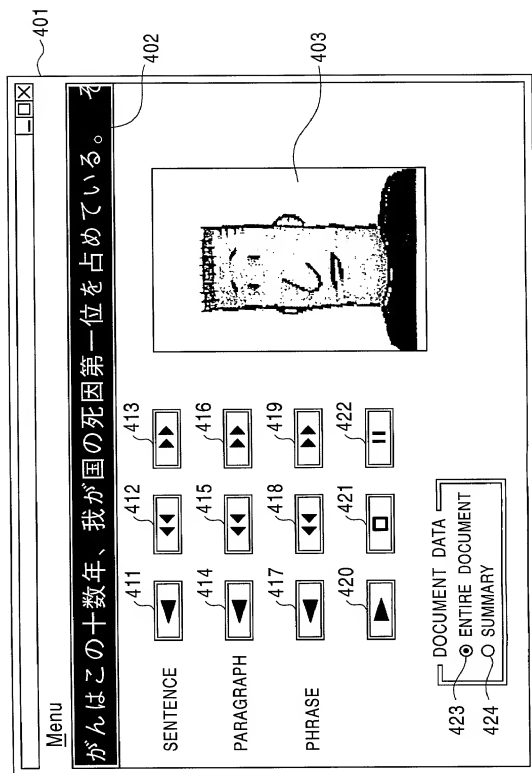


FIG. 27

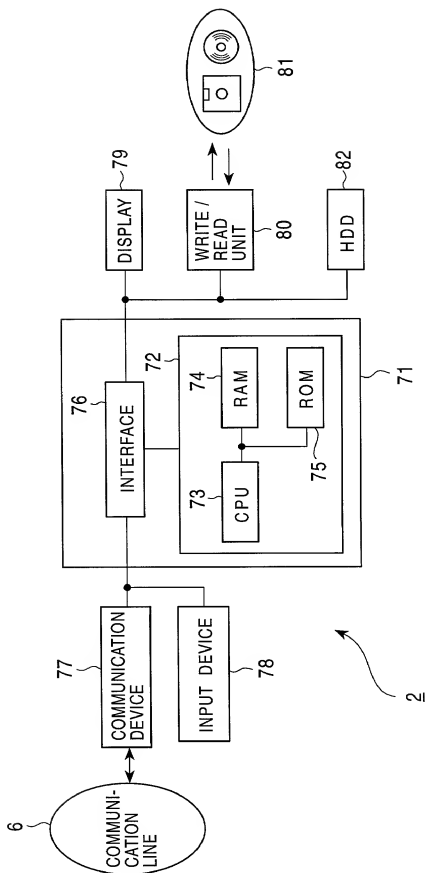


FIG. 28

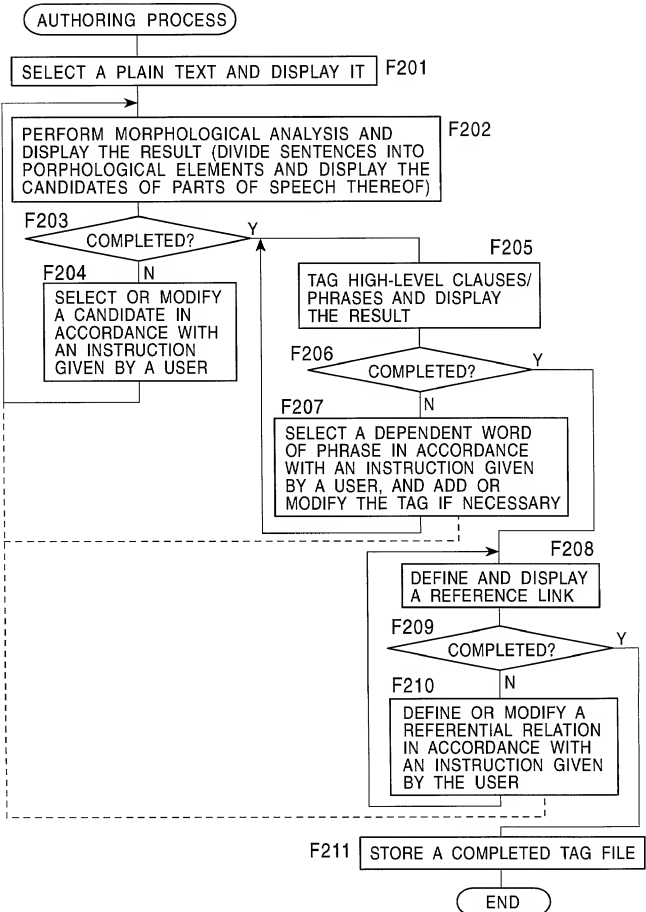


FIG. 29A

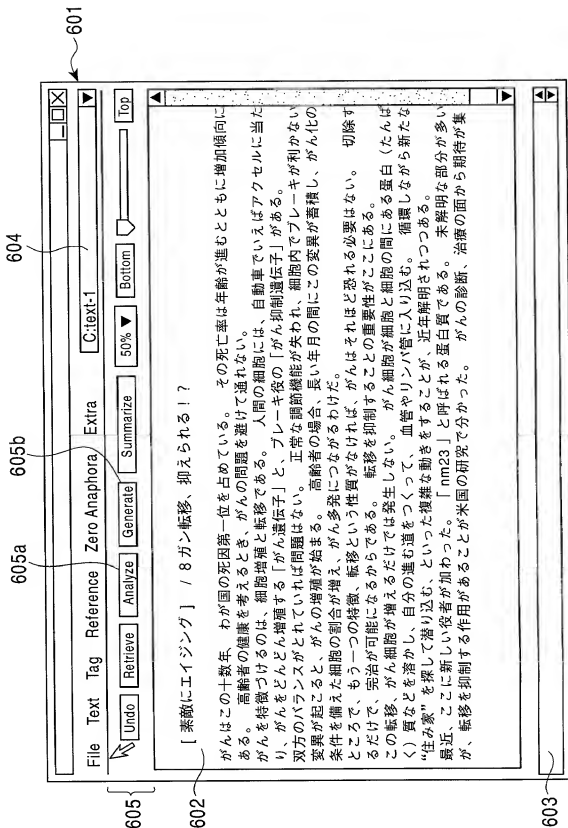


FIG. 29B

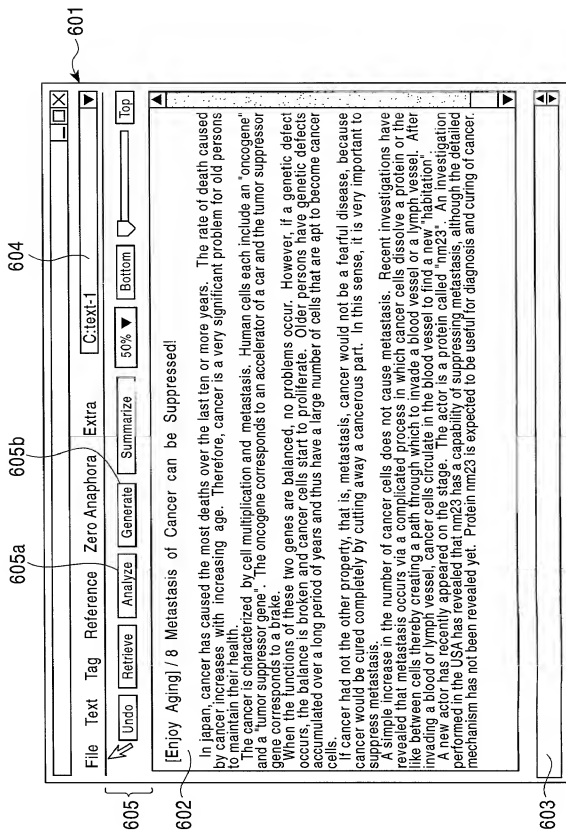
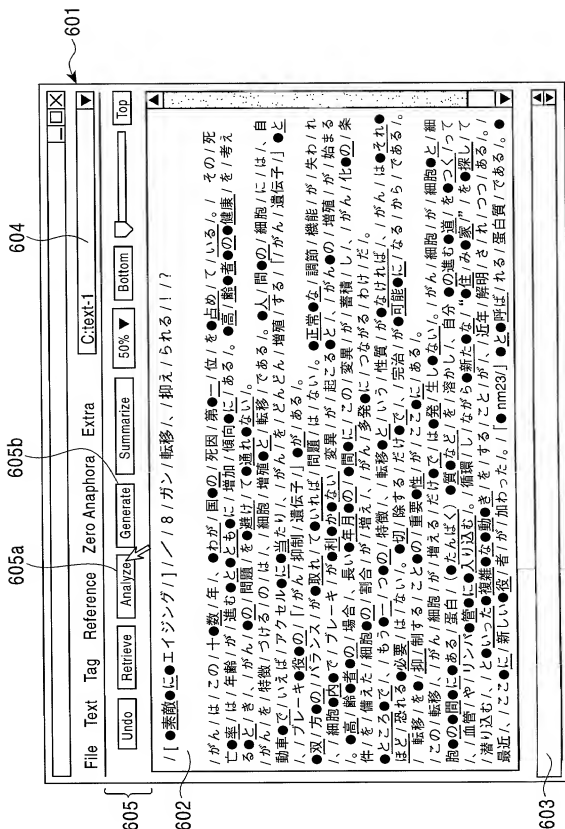


FIG. 30



601



FIG. 32

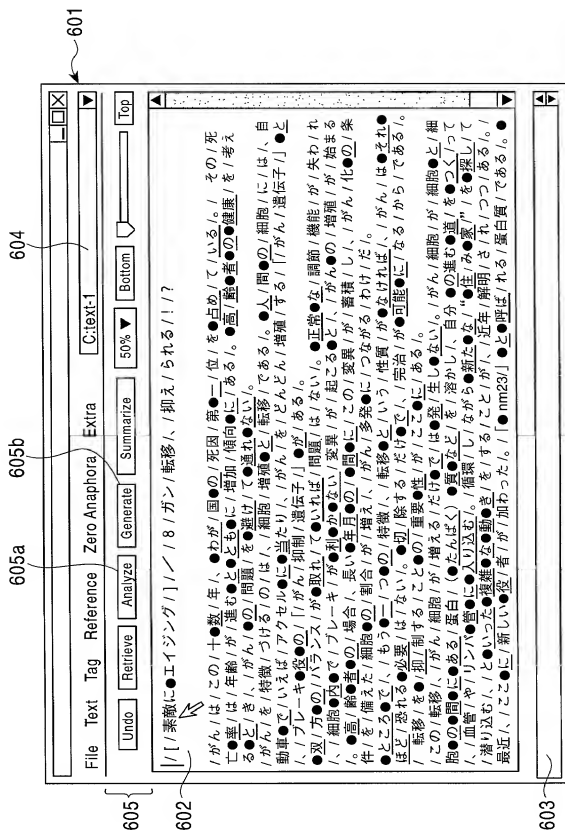


FIG. 35

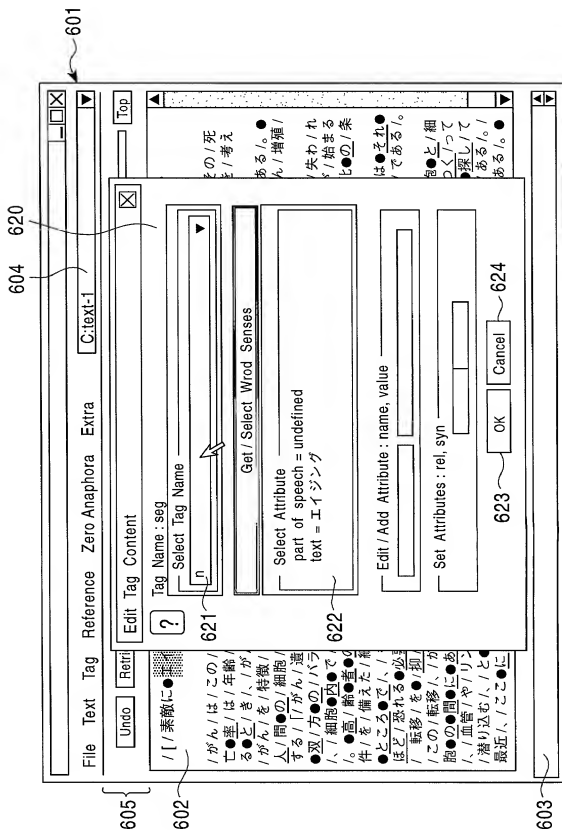
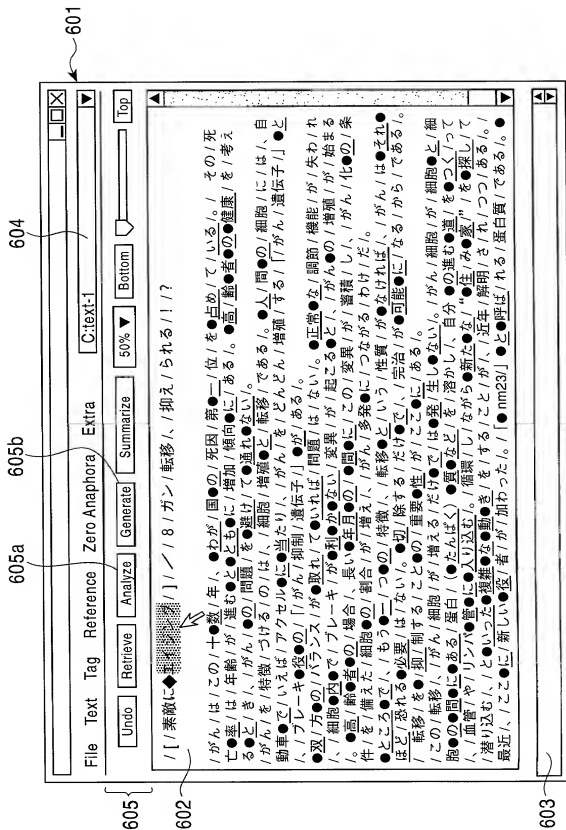


FIG. 36



601



← 601



FIG. 39

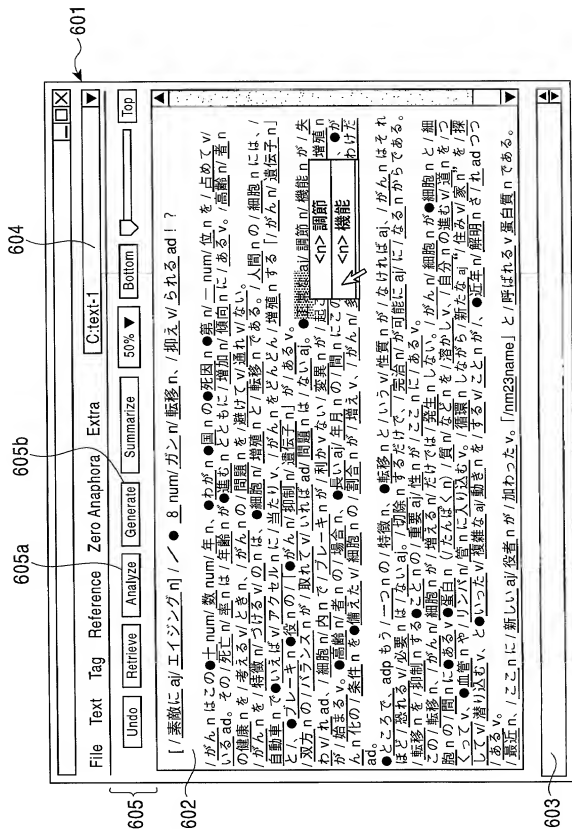


FIG. 40

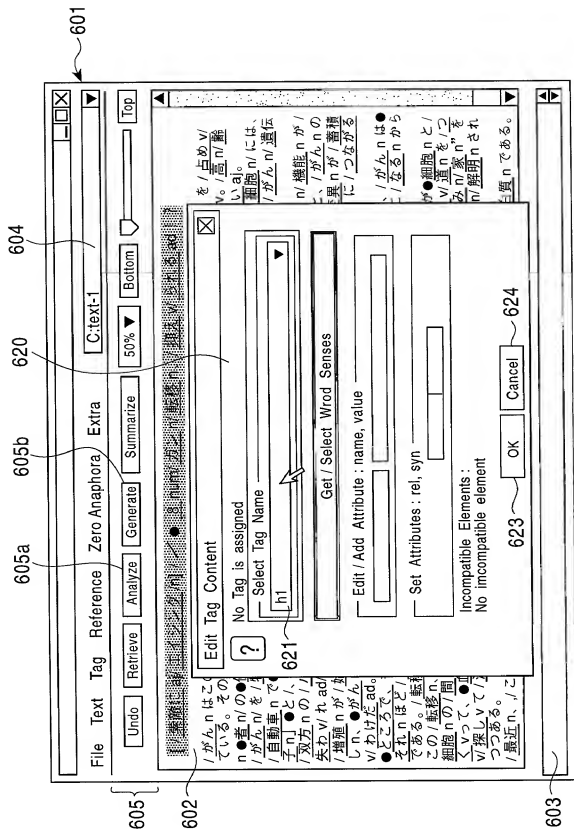


FIG. 41

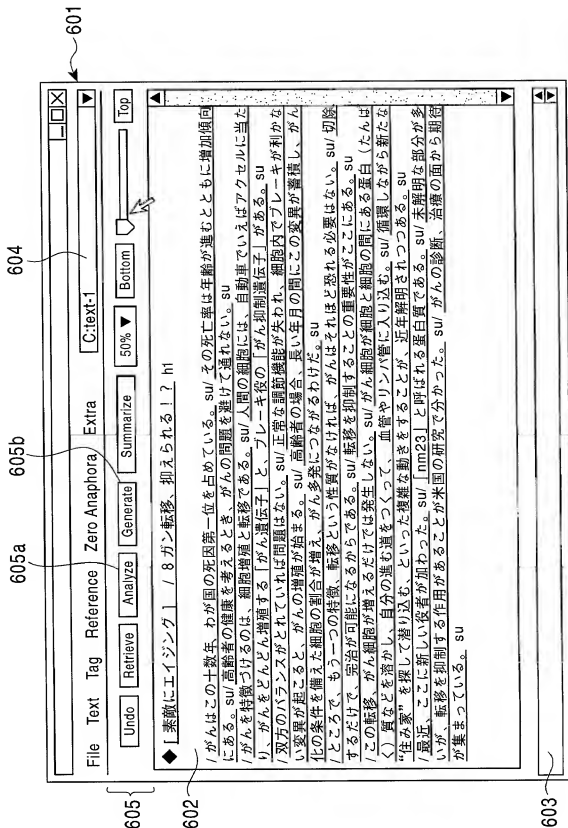


FIG. 42

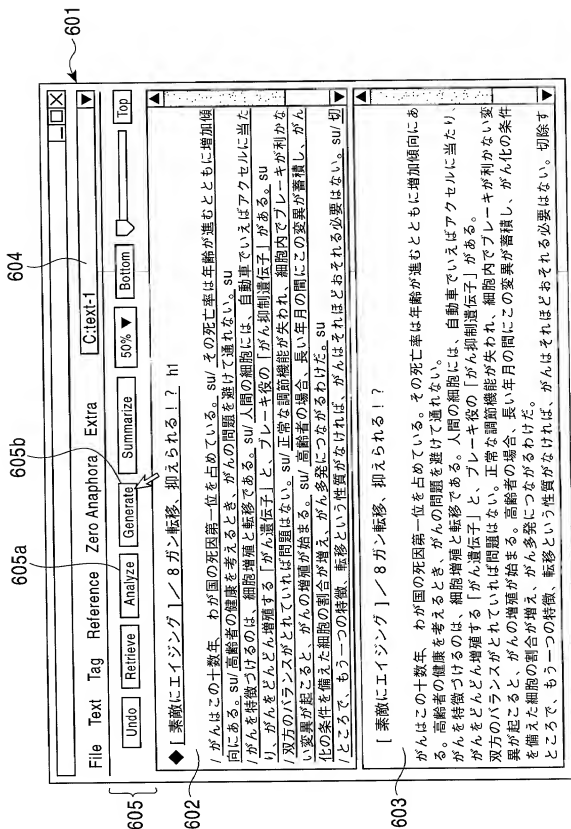
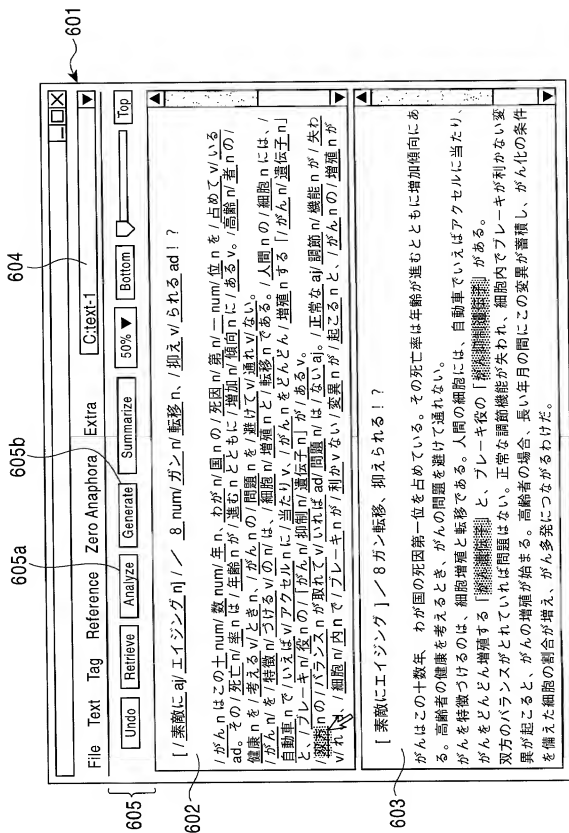


FIG. 43



SONY-T0949

BY EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL387335326US

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one named is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

DOCUMENT PROCESSING APPARATUS HAVING AN AUTHORIZING CAPABILITY FOR DESCRIBING A DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ 月 日 に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を _____ とし、
 （該当する場合） _____ に訂正されました。

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

私は、米国法典第35巻119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

外国での先行出願

優先権主張なし

 P11-227532
 (Number)
 (番号)

 Japan
 (Country)
 (国名)

 11 August 1999
 (Day/Month/Year Filed)
 (出願年月日)

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)
<p>私は、第 3 5 編米国法典 1 1 9 条 (e) 項に基づいて下記の米 国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。</p>		<p>I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.</p>
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(Application No.) (出願番号)
<p>私は、下記の米国法典第 3 5 編 1 2 0 条に基づいて下記の米 国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許 協力条約 3 6 5 条 (c) に基づく権利をここに主張します。また、 本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第 3 5 編 1 1 2 条 第 1 項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特 許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日 以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日ま での期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第 3 7 編 1 条 5 6 項 で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開 示義務があることを認識しています。</p>		<p>I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.</p>
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)
<p>私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表 明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じているこ とに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに放 意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第 1 8 編第 1 0 0 1 条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはそ の両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような放意による 虚偽の表明を行なえば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許 の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごと く宣誓を致します。</p>		<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may be jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p>

Japanese Language Declaration 日本語宣言書			
委任状： 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。(弁理士、または代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)		POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark office connected therewith (<i>list name and registration number</i>)	
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